Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 23 | WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you already read the newly enacted labor reform law?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Jittery Markets

Global stock markets plunge amid worries that a possible U.S. recession will cause a worldwide economic slowdown.

BUSINESS...Page 14

Showdown

Presidential rivals Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama figure in a highly personal, finger-wagging debate.

NATION...Page 15

Laid to Rest

Thousands across New Zealand bid farewell to the Mount Everest conqueror Tuesday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Tebuteb is new chair of Saipan delegation. **PAGE 3**

Cashier foils masked man's robbery try. **PAGE 6**

'Non-HQT teachers are suffering'

House questions budget 'discrepancy'

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives questioned yesterday what they called a "discrepancy" in the governor's submissions on the fiscal year 2008 budget.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said there

See HOUSE on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Current House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, center, appears to be getting some pointers from Reps. Diego T. Benavente, right, and Heinz S. Hofschneider, both former House speakers, after the first session of the 16th House of Representatives on Capital Hill Tuesday.

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has a total of 525 teachers, of which 347 are considered highly qualified—a performance that PSS takes pride in.

Lost, however, in all these are the status of the remaining 178, who suffer not only from the label of being non-HQT but also from the salary cut that they were forced to absorb because of their not being such.

Kagman High School teacher Sam Joyner highlighted the plight of non-HQT teachers during the CNMI State Board of Education meeting on Jan. 19, saying that "teacher morale is at an all time low" because of this.

Joyner, who said he is representing a small group of non-HQT teachers, pointed out during the board's public comments session that their salaries "have been reduced, but the

See NON-HQT on Page 4

Searchers fail to locate missing man

Land and sea search may end up today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Search and rescue teams failed again yesterday to locate Skaiuno M. Renguul, 48, who is missing and is feared dead after a big wave swept him and his companion from the cliff line at Marine Beach in Kagman.

As of press time yesterday, rescue teams from the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section, Emergency

See SEARCHERS on Page 4

RELATED NEWS
EMO maintains warning vs rip currents.
PAGE 6

Family members and friends of Skaiuno M. Renguul patiently wait on the shore while rescue teams from the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section, Emergency Management Office, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority continue the sea and land search at Marine Beach in Kagman. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PREPAID SPECIAL

i415 Only $49 with FREE $42.50 airtime value and Sim Card

i855 Only $149 with FREE $97.50 airtime value and Sim Card

20% off on accessories

iCONNECT
Saipan - Guam Office:
888-8888
Tinian/Rota: 898-4259
www.iconnectsaipan.com

Free prepaid credits must be loaded into the new sim card upon purchase. Conditions apply.

Local

$36K worth of prizes in golf fundraiser

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The "Friends of Wakai Nekko No Kai" have received close to $36,000 worth of prizes for today's Friendship Tournament and raffle drawing.

A hundred players for Wakai Nekko No Kai Golf Tourney Friendship Golf Tournament are expected to play in today's game at the Coral Ocean Point.

Saipan Mayor's Office public information officer Tony Benavente said, "We're still accepting interested individuals who want to play."

"We are also waiting for legislators to participate as we have not received any registrations from them," Benavente said.

The prizes consist of $6,000 cash donations and over $30,000 in in-kind donations.

The biggest prize of all is a 2008 Toyota Yaris, which will be given to the individual who can shoot a hole-in-one in hole #12.

Second is a $5,000 prize for the individual who can shoot a hole-in-one in hole #14.

Another lucky individual who can hit closest to hole #7 will win a "special prize" at a $5,000 value.

Trophies and cash prizes ranging from $400 to $100 will be given to those who place first to fourth in the tournament. Fifth to tenth place winners will be given consolation prizes.

The Northern Marianas College is sending 20 of its students as volunteers to help in the tournament. Media from Japan are also expected to be at the event.

The golf tournament will be a double Peoria format. Shotgun starts at 7am.

A banquet, giving away of tournament prizes and a raffle drawing will follow at 12pm at the Coral Ocean Point.

Individuals are still encouraged to join. The $75 fee registration fee will cover the green fee, the raffle drawing, and banquet.

No admin leave for Friendship Tourney

Saipan Gov. Benigno R. Fitial did not approve the administrative leave for employees to attend the Wakai Nekko No Kai Golf Friendship Golf Tournament today.

According to press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr., the approval was not signed because of concerns that not all those who have registered may participate in the event at all.

"If that happens, we're going to have a little bit of an accountability problem," said Reyes.

However, government employees are still allowed to participate.

Reyes explained that because Cabinet members are on-call 24/7, they are allowed take a day off at their own discretion.

Other government employees who are accumulating annual leave are also allowed to participate, provided they apply for leave and have their supervisors approve.

The Friends of Wakai Nekko No Kai have been asking the governor to allow administrative leaves, at least for those who will participate in the event.

According to Tony Benavente, Lt. Gov. Tim Villagomez is expected to play at today's meet. ***(Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)***

Saipan's
Sport Utility Vehicle
Headquarters
SUV #1 DEALER
HYUNDAI TUCSON
HYUNDAI VERACRUZ
HYUNDAI SANTA FE
SUZUKI XL-7
All New For 2008!
MITSUBISHI MOTORS OUTLANDER
mazda CX-7
mazda CX-9
PRICES STARTING AT ONLY $17,995 OR $147 PER PAYCHECK!*
Customers First
TRIPLE J
TRIPLE J MOTORS
Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm • Sat: 8am-5pm
Tel: 234-7133 • Fax: 234-3052
Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau
TRIPLE J CAR MART
Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm • Sat: 8am-5pm
Tel: 235-5065/6 • Fax: 234-2326
Middle Road, Chalan Kiya
*On approved credit (O.A.C.). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Starting price of $17,995.00 less 20% down payment or trade-in equity financed at 11.75% A.P.R. for 60 months at $147 per paycheck for a total of 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price $19,105.20. #1 in Total SUV sales for 2007.

Tebuteb is new chair of Saipan delegation

Saipan lawmakers elected Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb yesterday as the new chairman of the 16th Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz was elected vice chairman and Rep. Justo S. Quitugua, floor leader.

The three lawmakers all received the unanimous vote of their colleagues.

During session, Tebuteb asked Dela Cruz to pick lawmakers to head the seven standing committees. Dela Cruz announced the following appointments:

■ Ways and Means: Rep. Ray N. Yumul

■ Natural Resources: Rep. Oscar M. Babauta

■ Health, Education and Welfare: Rep. Ralph DLG Torres

■ Judiciary and Governmental Operations: Rep. Rosemond B. Santos

■ Federal and Foreign Relations: Sen. Pete P. Reyes

■ Commerce and Tourism: Rep. Edward T. Salas

■ Public Utilities and Infrastructure: Rep. Cristina E. Sablan

In an interview, Dela Cruz said the power crisis is at the top of the agenda of the Saipan delegation. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is under a state of emergency because of lack of funds to purchase power generation fuel.

Asked if the Saipan gaming bill will see a comeback in the 15th Saipan delegation, Dela Cruz said he would oppose it.

"Personally, I don't want to see it on the floor again. I hope it will not come up. It has been brought up so many times, it is beginning to become ridiculous," he said.

The Saipan gaming bill was introduced and killed three times in the 15th Legislature. This occurred despite the defeat of the casino initiative in a referendum on Nov. 3, 2007. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Pete A. wants intact budget

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio is lobbying the Legislature to exempt his office from any budget cuts.

In a letter to House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, the CNMI's representative to the nation's capital asked the newly installed lawmakers to retain his office's budget at the proposed funding level of $950,000.

Tenorio also urged the 16th Legislature to exclude the Office of the Resident Representative from the reprogramming authority the Legislature may give the governor.

He maintained that his is an elected office and does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Executive Branch. He added that, because he operates offices in both the CNMI and in Washington, D.C., the limited financial resources given to his office should not be subject to reprogramming by the administration.

"In the past two fiscal years, my office's budget was unreasonably targeted with disproportionate and unfair reductions. My reasonable requests for parity were ignored by the administration," Tenorio said.

The 15th House of Representatives passed a budget of $950,000 for WRO. But the appropriation bill died in the Senate.

This is substantially less than his original budget proposal of $1.29 million, but Tenorio said his office can live with the reduced amount.

Tenorio's original proposal included $131,760 for retirement contributions; $126,000 for the subsistence allowance of seven D.C.-based employees; $60,000 for his trips between D.C. and Saipan, as well as to other destinations within the United States; $34,000 for his official residence; $24,000 for cleaning services; and $15,000 for utilities at the D.C. and Saipan offices and his residence.

Submitted in March 2007, Tenorio's proposal also included $60,000 for the office's current legal consultant, and $40,000 to fund the hiring of another lobbying firm in D.C. to assist with federal wage and immigration bill proposals affecting the CNMI. The bill is now on its way to passage in the Senate.

Bank sues ex-Rota DPS chief for loan

BankPacific Ltd. has sued former Rota Department of Public Safety resident director Steve K. Mesngon and his wife for allegedly failing to pay $65,106.08 in housing loan, accrued interest, and late fees.

BankPacific asked the Superior Court to find Steve Mesngon and Judy Ann M. Mesngon jointly liable to pay $63,952.55 in principal amount, $1,119.17 in accrued interest, and $34.36 in late fees.

The bank asked the court to order the defendants to pay the company attorney's fees and court costs.

The bank also asked the court to foreclose the defendants' mortgaged 870 square meter property and order its sale to satisfy the judgment.

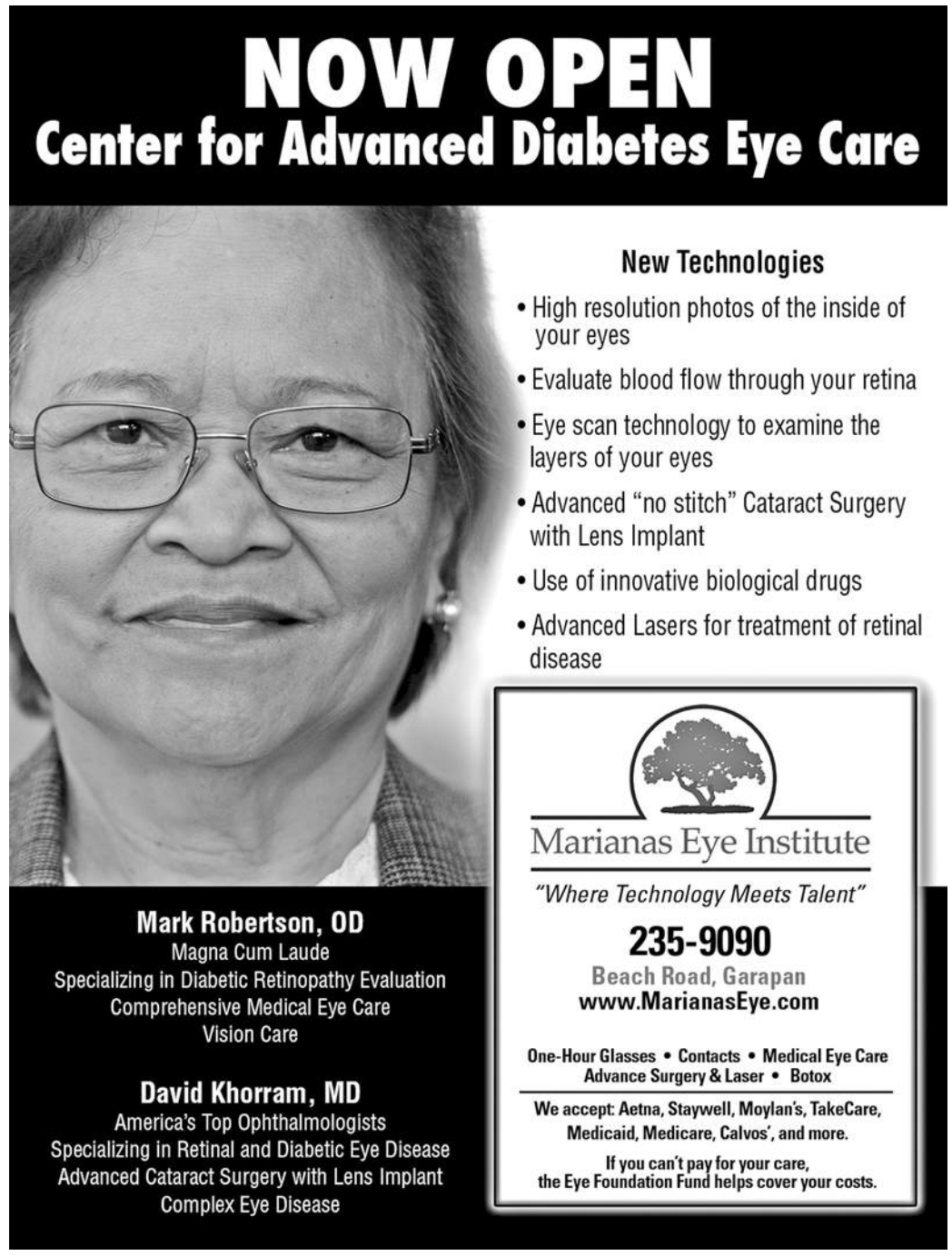
Saipan Tribune tried to reach the Mesngons yesterday to get their side, but learned from Rota that they are now living in Guam.

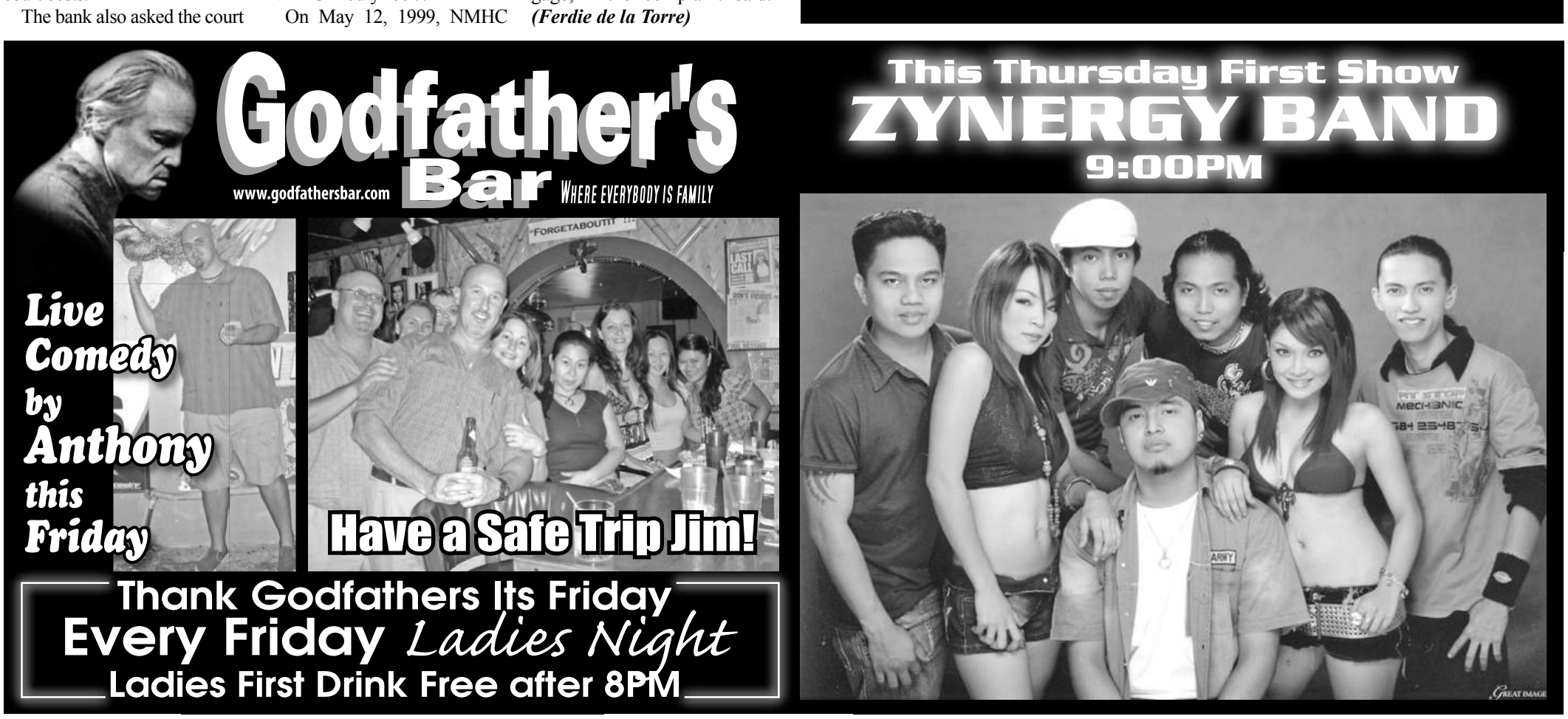
According to the complaint, on July 18, 1997, the Mesngons entered into a loan agreement with Northern Mariana Housing Corp. Under the agreement, NMHC agreed to loan to the Mesngons the principal sum of $65,000. The defendants executed a promissory note to NMHC in July 1997.

On May 12, 1999, NMHC assigned to Guam Savings and Loan Association, now BankPacific, the $65,000 promissory note in favor of NMHC.

The complaint said that under the note and mortgage, defendants were obligated to make payments to BankPacific in consecutive monthly installments of $570.42.

"Despite demand, defendants have failed, refused and neglected to make the required payments due under the note and mortgage, and have otherwise defaulted in their obligations under the note and mortgage, " the complaint said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***


NOW OPEN
Center for Advanced Diabetes Eye Care
New Technologies
• High resolution photos of the inside of your eyes
• Evaluate blood flow through your retina
• Eye scan technology to examine the layers of your eyes
• Advanced "no stitch" Cataract Surgery with Lens Implant
• Use of innovative biological drugs
• Advanced Lasers for treatment of retinal disease
Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Laude
Specializing in Diabetic Retinopathy Evaluation
Comprehensive Medical Eye Care
Vision Care
David Khorram, MD
America's Top Ophthalmologists
Specializing in Retinal and Diabetic Eye Disease
Advanced Cataract Surgery with Lens Implant
Complex Eye Disease
Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com
One-Hour Glasses • Contacts • Medical Eye Care
Advance Surgery & Laser • Botox
We accept: Aetna, Staywell, Moylan's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Calvos', and more.
If you can't pay for your care, the Eye Foundation Fund helps cover your costs.



34 firms to participate in MHS career fair

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirty-four companies and agencies have confirmed their participation in the upcoming Cooperative Education and Training Program this spring semester starting Jan. 24 to May 2008.

Marianas High School teacher and coordinator Tyce Mister said, " It is a great opportunity to recruit some awesome students for internships."

The Cooperative Program, sometimes referred to as "Co-Op," consists of both Cooperative Education on campus and Cooperative Training off-campus.

Cooperative Education students participate in completing resumés, applications, interviews, personal development, and other projects.

According to Mister, "The program is designed to help prepare students for the job market. Many companies have hired Co-Op students."

Cooperative Training students gain work experience by participating as a trainee at an off campus business organization.

Companies and agencies that have hired Co-Op students are encouraged to have former students attend the Career Fair to help represent their company.

Mister said, "The training hours are generally during the afternoon school hours; however, there is some schedule flexibility."

Saipan's senior level public high school students from the Cooperative Education & Training Program and SPED Transitional Job Training will be participating.

"Currently, there are approximately a total of 60 students," Mister said.

Rota lawmaker introduces 3 gaming bills

Rota Rep. Victor Hocog introduced the first three bills in the 16th House of Representatives, and they are all gaming-related.

House Bill 15-1 proposes to exempt casino-related bills introduced by the Rota Legislative Delegation from the rules on introduction of local appropriation bills.

The same exemption now applies to similar bills introduced by the Tinian Legislative Delegation.

House Bill 15-2 seeks to reallocate CNMI-wide poker license fees to the senatorial districts. Under the bill, a portion of license fees paid for poker machines will remain with the senatorial district for appropriation by the respective legislative delegations. In return, the senatorial districts will bear the cost of enforcing poker regulations.

Currently, poker machine operators pay separate license fees to both the central and the local governments.

Hocog's proposal would to allow the local governments to keep part of the money that now goes to the General Fund, on top of the fees paid to the local government.

House Bill 15-3 proposes to earmark gross receipt taxes collected from future casinos on Rota so the funds may be appropriated by the Saipan delegation.

Under H.B. 15-3, the Finance secretary will create a special account and deposit into it all of the money collected from casino licensees on Rota. These funds will be subject to appropriation by the Saipan Delegation.

Hocog's bill did not fully explain the purpose of the bill, stating only that the measure is "necessary and is a proper use of the legislative power granted by Section 1 of Article II of the Commonwealth Constitution." ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

NON-HQT

From Page 1

work loads have increased."

He explained to the board that teachers who were "previously making, for example, $42,000 per year but have not attained HQT status are now making just $28,000 per year."

He added that before the HQT standard came into existence, "the basic 'staff development' concepts were geared toward breeding highly effective teachers." He said the HQT revolution took them by storm and inadvertently overshadowed the notion of becoming an effective teacher.

"In addition, it is the Highly Effective Teachers who are the frontline of the schools. These are the 'go to' teachers whom administrators depend upon so greatly," Joyner said.

He said that he himself is a non-HQT and that some of his mentors are non-HQTs as well. "They continue to assist and advise me in many areas. There is much to be learned from veteran teachers," said Joyner.

He said it is challenging to have to face salary reductions. "And most critical, these shortcomings create stress, low self esteem, and general depression. In this state of conditions, add on top of all of this the pressure of passing the Praxis test, increase in fuel cost, and paying CUC before they cut you off," Joyner said.

Among other requirements, a teacher has to pass two certification exams—Praxis I and Praxis II—to be considered highly qualified. Each Praxis test costs $145.

Joyner pointed out that many teachers are leaving the CNMI, and that many non-HQTs are on island for the long run.

"As a result of losing teachers, remaining teachers carry a heavier workload for a lower salary scale. This is very discouraging," he said.

He said that before President Bush signed the "No Child Left Behind" initiative, "these teachers [non-HQTs] were certified by the state. They were acknowledged as 'important'. They were treated with respect and they had much pride in their work."

However, when the HQT status was implemented, letters were sent home to parents stating that their child was being taught by a non-highly qualified teacher, he said.

"Many teachers got mixed messages and felt that the system had left them out in the cold. Resentment filled the air of many campuses," Joyner said.

When BOE chair Lucia Blanco-Maratita asked Joyner if what he is saying is that non-HQTs should be paid the same as HQTs, Joyner replied: "I'm not saying we should be paid the same. I'm just wondering why we have to face salary reductions."

Members of the board acknowledged that no state is 100 percent HQT compliant.

"I believe that our administration and BOE members are sincerely seeking to address and solve these and other issues in a timely manner," Joyner said.

Blanco-Maratita said the board will look into the matter.

HOUSE

From Page 1

is an $8.61-million gap between the resources that the governor identified for appropriation in the two documents he submitted to the Legislature.

On Sept. 10, 2007, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial submitted the FY2008 Budget Transmittal, which identified resources of $168.771 million for appropriation. On Sept. 12, 2007, Fitial sent the FY2008 Resources Transmittal, which identified budget resources of $160.1 million.

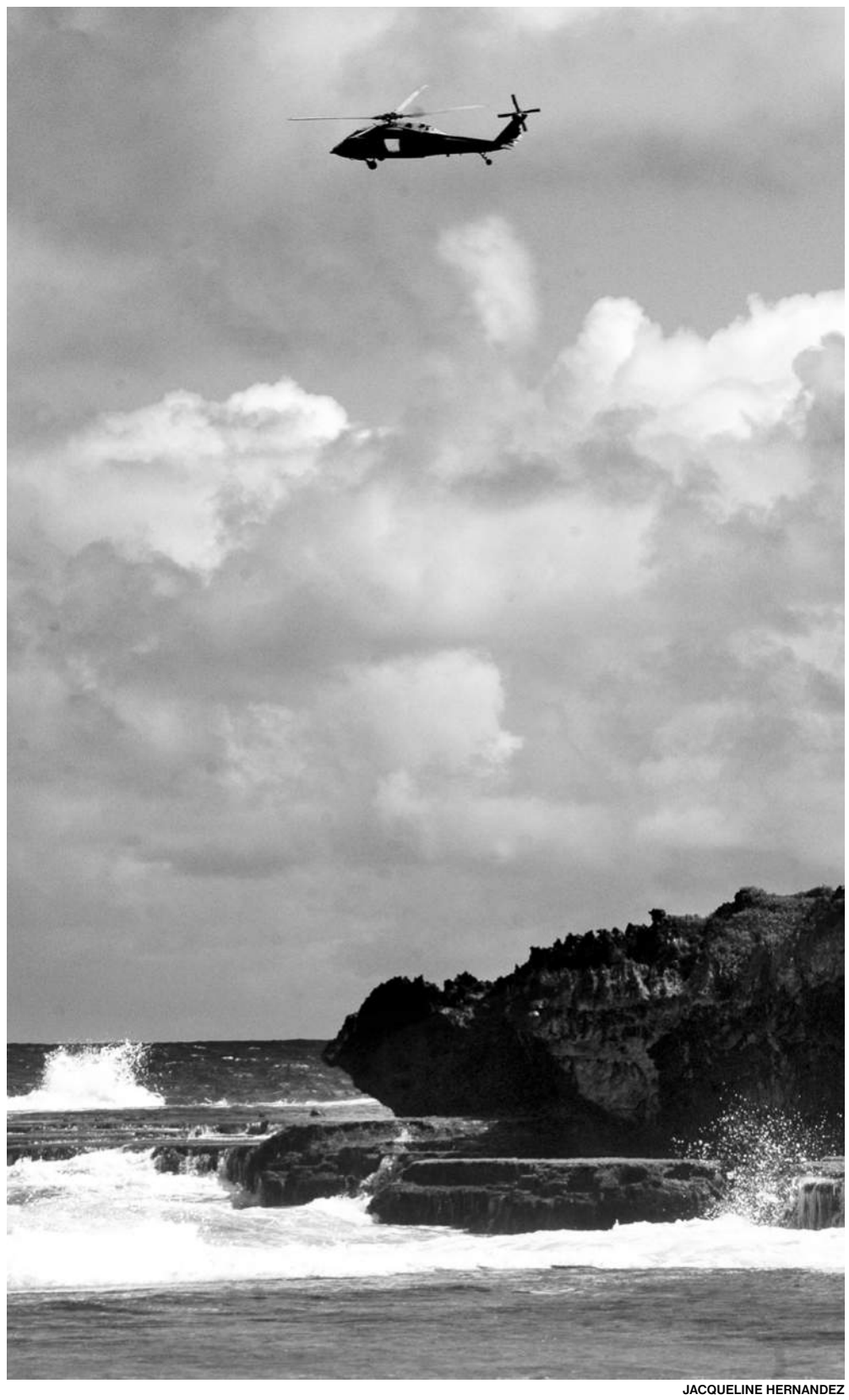
Yumul said the Governor's Office must clarify the discrepancy at once.

"The Legislature is eager to work on the FY2008 budget and identification of the budget resources is critical to the enactment of the budget," he said.

Esther Fleming, the governor's special assistant for administration and for management and budget, said there is no real discrepancy in the governor's submissions.

For FY 2008, the Department of Finance does project total revenue amounting $160.1 million in revenue. However, the Office of Management and Budget believes the budget can be stretched to $168.771 million if the Legislature authorizes the governor to reprogram some $3.5 million from outside sources and to use $5.171 million in anticipated Compact Impact funds for government operations.

The House Ways and Means Committee will meet with the governor and Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos on Thursday. The both are currently off island.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A helicopter from the U.S. Navy in Guam assists in the aerial search for Skaiuno M. Renguul who has been missing at Marine Beach in Kagman since Sunday.

SEARCHERS

From Page 1

Management Office, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority still continued the sea and land search for the Palau native.

Family members and friends of Renguul were seen at the command post set up by DPS at the Marine Beach area.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* that the search may end today, Wednesday.

Ogumoro said the U.S. Navy's helicopter stopped the aerial search Monday.

Ogumoro said rescue teams from different agencies continued scouring cliff lines, beaches, and the sea from Marine Beach, Old Man By The Sea, all the way to Forbidden Island yesterday.

She said two Zodiac rescue boats were dispatched for the operation.

Police investigation showed that Renguul and Frank K. Leon Guerrero, 38, were crab hunting near the cliff line along the northern portion of Marine Beach Sunday at 8:30pm when a large wave swept them to sea. Leon Guerrero managed to swim back toward the cliff line. He tried searching for his companion for 40 minutes until he decided to swim back to shore and called the police.

DPS received the call Sunday at 11:04pm.

Leon Guerrero suffered minor abrasions and scratches to the lower back and right elbow as well as fluid in the lungs. He was placed under further observation at the Commonwealth Health Center for several hours. Upon being discharged, he went back to Marine Beach to help in the search.

Cody seeks probe on possible sponsorship scheme

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody has asked the Labor director to initiate an investigation into the conduct of an employer who submitted several transfer applications to hire alien workers just prior to departing the CNMI.

Cody asked the Labor director to review Lorylinda C. Santos' filing history to determine whether Labor should commence an agency investigation relating to her employment activities.

Cody affirmed the Labor director's decision to deny Santos' transfer application to hire a guest worker, Amelia C. Serrano, as food server. The hearing officer gave Serrano 30 days to seek a new employer.

"The timing of the application, filed at about the end of Ms. Serrano's 45-day transfer period, is suspicious. Ms. Serrano swears that this was a legitimate employment offer and not a sponsorship," Cody said.

He said there is insufficient evidence of sponsorship, as the prospective employer (Santos) did not attend the hearing.

According to Labor records, Serrano testified at the Jan. 9, 2008 hearing that Santos, who owned a catering business, offered to hire her in March 2007 as a food server. The transfer application was filed on April 4, 2007. That same day, Santos departed the CNMI.

On Sept. 11, 2007, Labor issued and served a deficiency notice on Santos, noting that the application was missing numerous items.

After 15 days, having received no corrective documents, Labor denied the application for failure to correct deficiencies. Serrano appealed.

At the hearing Serrano testified that Santos told her in early April 2007 that she was leaving but would return in two months. After two months, Serrano called her employer's sister on Saipan and asked when Santos would return. Serrano got no definitive answer, but received a telephone number for Santos in Hawaii. When Serrano spoke by telephone to the employer in Hawaii, Santos told her to "just wait until she returned."

The worker testified that she waited several months, then contacted Labor to ask about the status of her permit. She claimed she was told to return in 20 days, and when she came back, she was served with the denial notice of the application.

In his administrative order last Friday, Cody said the facts in this case demonstrate the obvious problems that can occur in accepting a job from an employer who is leaving the island immediately after filing the application.

Among the difficulties, Cody said, were serious deficiencies with the application that went uncorrected.

Moreover, he said, Serrano simply waited for months before informing Labor about the situation.

"Although transfer relief will be granted in this case, the appellant-worker is warned that any similar conduct in the future is likely to result in the denial of any further opportunity to transfer," the hearing officer said.

Cody said that given the lack of service on Santos about the hearing, he should not sanction the employer.

Matua Bay casino-hotel will be high-tech but will blend with surroundings

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Matua Bay Casino-Hotel and Golf Resort may very well include the most modern buildings in the CNMI after its completion, but it is expected to blend effortlessly with its surroundings on Tinian.

This was disclosed when the project's investor, Marianas Resort Development Co., Inc., updated government officials and private sector leaders on the progress of the $300-million project on Tinian.

No less than MRDC chairman and CEO Kang Yun Lee led the presentation held Jan. 17 on Saipan's neighboring island.

Dr. Shin Takamatsu, Ph.D., of the renowned architectural design firm Takamatsu Architect & Associates Co. Ltd., provided a detailed multimedia presentation highlighting the casino-hotel's master plans; a volume study for each building; concept for exterior design; schematic general site master plan; schematic floor plan for each building; schematic elevation for each building; and schematic section for each building.

His presentation emphasized the advanced technologies that will be integrated into Matua Bay Casino-Hotel, including many innovative resource conservation measures.

Dr. Takamatsu said the aesthetic design of the casino-hotel will integrate the large project into the beautiful and pristine environment that surrounds Matua Bay.

Hida Design Company Ltd.'s Toshio Yamaga, meanwhile, presented the plans for the Matua Bay Resort's 18-hole championship golf course, which he said promises to be challenging, at 7,160 yards, but will be enjoyable for all players.

"A highlight of the course design is the incorporation of three lakes that will function as a water source, irrigation system, and strategic challenge to all players. The lakes will also blend into the natural beauty of the island of Tinian," he said.

Chairman and CEO Lee said the presentation is further indication of MRDC's continued commitment to invest in the CNMI.

He concluded the presentation by thanking everyone for their assistance and continued support as the project moves forward.

Matua Bay Resort is a project pushed since 2005 by MRDC, a Korean firm based in Guam.

Earlier reports said that Matua Bay Resort would be a 1,000-room hotel with a golf course and a casino. The project involves two phases. The first phase will include the construction of 500 hotel rooms and an 18-hole golf course at an estimated cost of $179 million.

Mariana Resort Development is expected to make an additional investment of $130 million for the Phase II of the project, which will include the completion of the facility.

FIRST SESSION JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios shares a light moment with Rep. Diego T. Benavente, Rep. Christina-Marie E. Sablan, Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio after the 16th Legislature's first session at the House Chamber on Capital Hill Tuesday.

Live fire training at Farallon

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla from Jan. 23 to Feb. 16, 2008, from 7am to 1am, according to the Emergency Management Office.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10-nautical-mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is strongly advising the public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

Should you have any questions, contact the EMO's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

When shipping between Saipan, Guam, Yap, Koror, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, China and Asia, make it CTSI Logistics.

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES, Ltd.

Weekly service. More frequent. More dependable.

Website: www.mariana-express.com

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD Port Kelang	ETD Fuzhou	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Xiamen	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hong Kong	ETD Kao	ETA Saipan	ETA Guam	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu
Asian Island	V001	1/12 Sat	1/17 Thu	1/28 Mon	1/17 Thu	1/12 Sat	1/5 Sat	1/20 Sun	1/21 Mon	1/20 Sun	1/23 Wed	1/12 Sat	1/13 Sun	1/18 Fri	1/19 Sat	1/24 Thu	1/26 Sat	1/29 Tue	1/30 Wed	2/1 Fri	2/2 Sat	2/5 Tue
Stadt Hamburg	V011	1/19 Sat	1/24 Thu	2/4 Mon	1/24 Thu	1/19 Sat	1/12 Sat	1/27 Sun	1/28 Mon	1/27 Sun	1/30 Wed	1/19 Sat	1/20 Sun	1/25 Fri	1/26 Sat	1/31 Thu	2/2 Sat	SKIP	2/6 Wed	2/8 Fri	2/9 Sat	2/12 Tue
Slyvette	V015	1/26 Sat	1/31 Thu	2/11 Mon	1/31 Thu	1/28 Mon	1/19 Sat	2/3 Sun	2/4 Mon	2/3 Sun	2/6 Wed	1/25 Fri	1/7 Mon	2/1 Fri	2/2 Sat	2/7 Thu	2/9 Sat	2/12 Tue	2/13 Wed	2/15 Fri	2/16 Sat	2/19 Tue
Asian Island	V002	2/2 Sat	2/7 Thu	2/18 Mon	2/7 Thu	2/4 Mon	1/26 Sat	2/10 Sun	2/11 Mon	2/10 Sun	2/13 Wed	2/1 Fri	1/14 Mon	2/8 Fri	2/9 Sat	2/14 Thu	2/16 Sat	SKIP	2/20 Wed	2/22 Fri	2/23 Sat	2/26 Tue
Stadt Hamburg	V012	2/9 Sat	2/14 Thu	2/25 Mon	2/14 Thu	2/11 Mon	2/2 Sat	2/17 Sun	2/18 Mon	2/17 Sun	2/20 Wed	2/8 Fri	1/21 Mon	2/15 Fri	2/16 Sat	2/21 Thu	2/23 Sat	2/26 Tue	2/27 Wed	2/29 Fri	3/1 Sat	3/4 Tue
To be announced	V016	2/16 Sat	2/21 Thu	3/3 Mon	2/21 Thu	2/18 Mon	2/9 Sat	2/24 Sun	2/25 Mon	2/23 Sat	2/27 Wed	2/15 Fri	1/28 Mon	2/22 Fri	2/23 Sat	2/28 Thu	3/1 Sat	SKIP	3/5 Wed	3/7 Fri	3/8 Sat	3/11 Tue
Asian Island	V003	2/23 Sat	2/28 Thu	3/10 Mon	2/28 Thu	2/25 Mon	2/16 Sat	3/2 Sun	3/3 Mon	3/1 Sat	3/5 Wed	2/22 Fri	2/4 Mon	2/29 Fri	3/1 Sat	3/6 Thu	3/8 Sat	3/11 Tue	3/12 Wed	3/14 Fri	3/15 Sat	3/18 Tue
Stadt Hamburg	V013	2/1 Sat	3/6 Thu	3/17 Mon	3/6 Thu	3/3 Mon	2/23 Sat	3/9 Sun	3/10 Mon	3/8 Sat	3/12 Wed	2/29 Fri	2/11 Mon	3/7 Fri	3/8 Sat	3/13 Thu	3/15 Sat	SKIP	3/19 Wed	3/21 Fri	3/22 Sat	3/25 Tue
To be announced	V017	2/9 Sat	3/13 Thu	3/24 Mon	3/13 Thu	3/10 Mon	3/1 Sat	3/16 Sun	3/17 Mon	3/15 Sat	3/19 Wed	3/7 Fri	2/18 Mon	3/14 Fri	3/15 Sat	3/20 Thu	3/22 Sat	3/25 Tue	3/26 Wed	3/28 Fri	3/29 Sat	4/1 Tue

*** We also accept cargoes from Fuzhou (ETD Wednesdays); Xiamen (ETD Thursdays); Surabaya (ETD Mondays); Australia (ETD Mondays); and, New Zealand (ETD Fridays/Saturdays).

CTSI IS YOUR TOTAL LOGISTICS PARTNER WORLDWIDE!

Exclusive General Agent of MELL

For bookings, you may call our Saipan agent:

CTSI LOGISTICS
CTSI Building, Lower Base,
P.O. Box 501937
322-1690/1 Trunk line
Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

Edgar T. Garcia
Inbound
Direct line (670) 236-2422

Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Leslie Rodriguez
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2403

CTSI Logistics
Moving the world

• Airfreight •
• Ocean freight •
• Trucking •
• Shipping Agent •

EMO maintains warning vs rip currents

The CNMI Emergency Management Office is warning the public that a high surf advisory currently in effect remains in place until 6pm today due to the continued possibility of large waves, particularly in north facing reefs.

EMO is advising the public, especially fishermen, beachgoers, diver, snorkelers, swimmers, and tourists to avoid venturing near reefs and exposed beaches as wind and wave conditions support dangerous rip currents. Rip currents are life threatening to anyone entering the water.

In a notice issued yesterday, EMO said that the small craft advisory for hazardous seas remains in effect through Wednesday afternoon and high surf advisory remains in effect until 6 pm today along north facing reefs.

Based on the information received from National Weather Service in Guam, moderate to fresh trade winds and long period north swell will generated surf heights at or above the advisory level by cold fronts moving southeastward from japan and will maintain seas at or above the small craft advisory level during the next couple of days.

As such, surf on north facing exposures is expected to remain at 8 to 10 feet through Wednesday afternoon. The surf is expected to subside below the advisory level by Thursday.

On Saipan, north facing exposures include Achugau Beach. On Rota, north facing exposures include Teteto Beach.

Today, northeast winds are expected to be at 15 to 20 knots with gusts of up to 30 knots. Wind waves are projected at 6 to 8 ft.; east swell at 4 ft and north swell at 5 to 6 ft.

Tonight, northeast wind is projected to be at 15 to 20 knots, with gusts of up to 30 knots. Wind waves are at 6 to 8 ft.; east swell at 4 ft and north swell at 4 ft. ***(EMO)***

Cashier foils masked man's robbery try

A female cashier foiled a masked man's attempt to stage an armed robbery at a store in San Antonio last week, police said yesterday.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said the suspect ran away when the cashier shouted for help from her husband, who was also inside the store.

Ogumoro said police responded to Smile Store last Wednesday at 11:22pm after receiving a report of an attempted armed robbery.

Ogumoro said preliminary investigation showed that an unidentified masked man entered the establishment armed with a knife.

The robber demanded money from the cashier. The cashier, however, alerted her husband for help. At her cry, the suspect ran out of the store and headed east toward the highway.

No one was hurt and no items were stolen.

Ogumoro said the suspect was described as wearing a green long-sleeved shirt with a hood and a black mask to conceal his face.

Ogumoro said the NMI Crime Stoppers Program is offering up to $1,000 cash reward to anyone who can provide information leading to the suspect's arrest.

Early this month, four armed robberies occurred on Saipan in seven days. The last victim was G.E.C. Pawnshop in Chalan Lau Lau on Jan. 11. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FMI obtains Mobil support for drainage cleanup

For the second year in a row, the Friends of the Mariana Islands has obtained the support of Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. for its Environmental Drainage Cleanup Project.

This year, the group's project is at Tun Joaquin Doi Road and this Saturday was the fifth weekend that Friends of the Mariana Islands volunteers have been cleaning up the site, using the supplies and other support provided by the Mobil donation.

Other support for the project was given by Philippine Goods Construction owned by Danilo Villacruses, which donated several days of backhoe support free of charge. PTI, through Carlyn Reyes Tenorio, donated hats to keep the sun off the Friends of the Mariana Islands volunteers. Pacific Trading Co. donated a banner to be used for the project. Beautify CNMI donated trash bags.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Friends of the Mariana Islands volunteers use a backhoe, courtesy of Philippine Goods Construction owned by Danilo Villacruses, to clean out the drainage at the Tun Joaquin Doi Road.

"DPS has also really been very helpful with the project by providing us cones during our cleanup project. Special thanks to Commissioner Rebecca Warfield and to Officer Tony Macaranas for helping us with this project. On behalf of Friends of the Mariana Islands, from the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank all our supporters," said FMI president Marites Castillo.

During all weekends through Feb. 2, 2008, Friends of the Mariana Islands will be doing its Drainage Cleanup Project funded by Mobil. The schedules for the cleanup project is:

Jan. 26, 2008, Saturday, Start at 8am to 3pm

Jan. 27, 2008, Sunday, Start at 8am to 3pm

Feb. 2, 2008, Saturday, Start at 8am to 12pm. This will be their last day for this drainage project and all FMI members will be in this area until volunteer work is done on this day! ***(FMI)***

Europe Marian Pilgrimage

In Conjunction with

- 150th Anniversary of the Lourdes Appraitions
- March 25 -16th Apparitions "I am the Immaculate Conception"

Rome, Assisi, Florence, Monte Carlo, Nice, Lourdes, Zaragoza, Madrid, Avila, Fatima, Lisbon

March 18 - April 2, 2008

$2,990 twin sharing per person

Includes

- Economy class Manila-Rome and Lisbon-Manila
- Breakfast and Dinner throughout
- All hotel accommodation at 3-4 star hotels
- All tours mensioned with English speaking guides
- Transfer from Airport to hotel and vice versa

Some restrictions apply.

For more information please call your travel agents, Lisa and Jie at (670) 235-3708 to 10 or e-mail us at customerservice@centurytravelagency.com www.centurytravelagency.com

Century Travel AGENCY, INC.

A TanHoldings Company

Going the Extra Mile to Serve You!

Ground Floor CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, PMB 193 Box 10000 PPP, Saipan MP 96950

Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union

PO Box 500135, Saipan MP 96950

Tel # (670) 664-3900 • Fax # (670) 664-3910

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez through the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union Board of Directors (BOARD) hereby gives notice that the BOARD has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, January 24, 2008, at 1:00 pm at the Credit Union Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following agenda will be discussed:

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes December 19, 2007

II. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
- A. Collection Status
- B. Financial Report-Monthly
- C. Operational Matters

III. OLD BUSINESS
- A. Audit Status
- B. SCU

IV. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Board Organization

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ **Debra T. Camacho**
Chairperson

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS PTA meeting today

To all parents/legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School, there will be a PTA meeting today, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008 at 6pm in the cafeteria. ***(PR)***

Free lecture by noted writer

The NMI Council for the Humanities is inviting the public to attend a lecture by noted author PF (Fred) Kluge, titled "Writing on Saipan: Writing About Saipan."

The lecture will be held Friday, Jan. 25, 2008, at 6:30pm, at the Visitors' Center Theater of the American Memorial Park. Admission is free.

Since coming to Saipan in 1969 as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer, PF (Fred) Kluge has made Saipan a major theme in many of his nine books and in numerous magazine articles. His first novel, The Day That I Die, was set on Saipan. His nonfiction book, The Edge of Paradise, covered Saipan.

With a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, Kluge is writer-in-residence at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, where he offers courses in modern literature and fiction writing. Read more about Dr. Kluge at http://pfkluge.com/. ***(PR)***

Missing family dog

Our family dog was found missing on Monday, Jan. 21, 2008, around 10:30am from our residence in Palasyo Court, Dandan.

Our dog is a 3-year-old male Rottweiler, black with brown paws. If you see our dog, please contact Rudy at 288-2575 or Jocelyn at 234-6866.

He has been a part of our family and we hold him dear to our hearts. Please help us find him. Thank you. ***(PR)***

MMAC Team Captains' meeting

There will be a Marianas March Against Cancer Team Captain's Meeting on Wednesday, Feb 6, 2008, at the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Saipan, at 5:30pm.

The Marianas March Against Cancer Committee is inviting all previous and interested Team Captains or their representatives to attend this important meeting where the upcoming 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer will be discussed. If you or anyone you know has been touched by cancer we urge you to attend this meeting and find out how you can help in the fight against cancer. Important information will be discussed. MMAC Committee members are also encouraged to attend so that Team Captains and members of the community may meet and discuss with them any issues that they may have. For more information, e-mail Chris A. Concepcion at chrisaconcepcion@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

NMC application ongoing

The Northern Marianas College has extended its application deadline to Jan. 25, 2008. If you are interested in furthering your education, call NMC Admissions and Records Office for assistance. The FAFSA Application Federal Pell grant is also still ongoing. The deadline is Feb. 1.

For more Information, call the Northern Marianas College at 234-5498. Office of Admissions and Records: 1524, 1528, 1539, 1523, Fax# 235-4967; Financial Aid Office: 1527, 1525, 1526, Fax# 235-4967; Student Center: 1251, 1252, 1253 ***(PR)***

Registration starts for 2nd Guam Industry Forum

The second Guam Industry Forum has launched a new web site and registration portal to kick off its registration period. The Forum is sponsored by the Joint Guam Program Office, JGPO, and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, NAVFAC.

The Forum will provide updates on the planning and acquisition strategy efforts following the first Industry Forum held on Guam in August 2007. Anticipated topics for the March 6-8, 2008 forum include: Master planning and environmental impact statement updates; acquisition strategy and program management approaches; special purpose entities status for housing and utilities; funding profiles & relationships—government of Japan and U.S.; government of Guam issues and needs; future department of defense needs; federal involvement.

More information on the Guam Industry Forum II, the agenda, and registration forms are available on-line at www.guamindustryforum.com. Registration will close on Feb. 25, 2008. ***(PR)***

WSR Elementary January events

Jan. 23, Nov/Dec/Jan Diners Club (2nd and 3rd grade in charge), Pizza Night fundraising

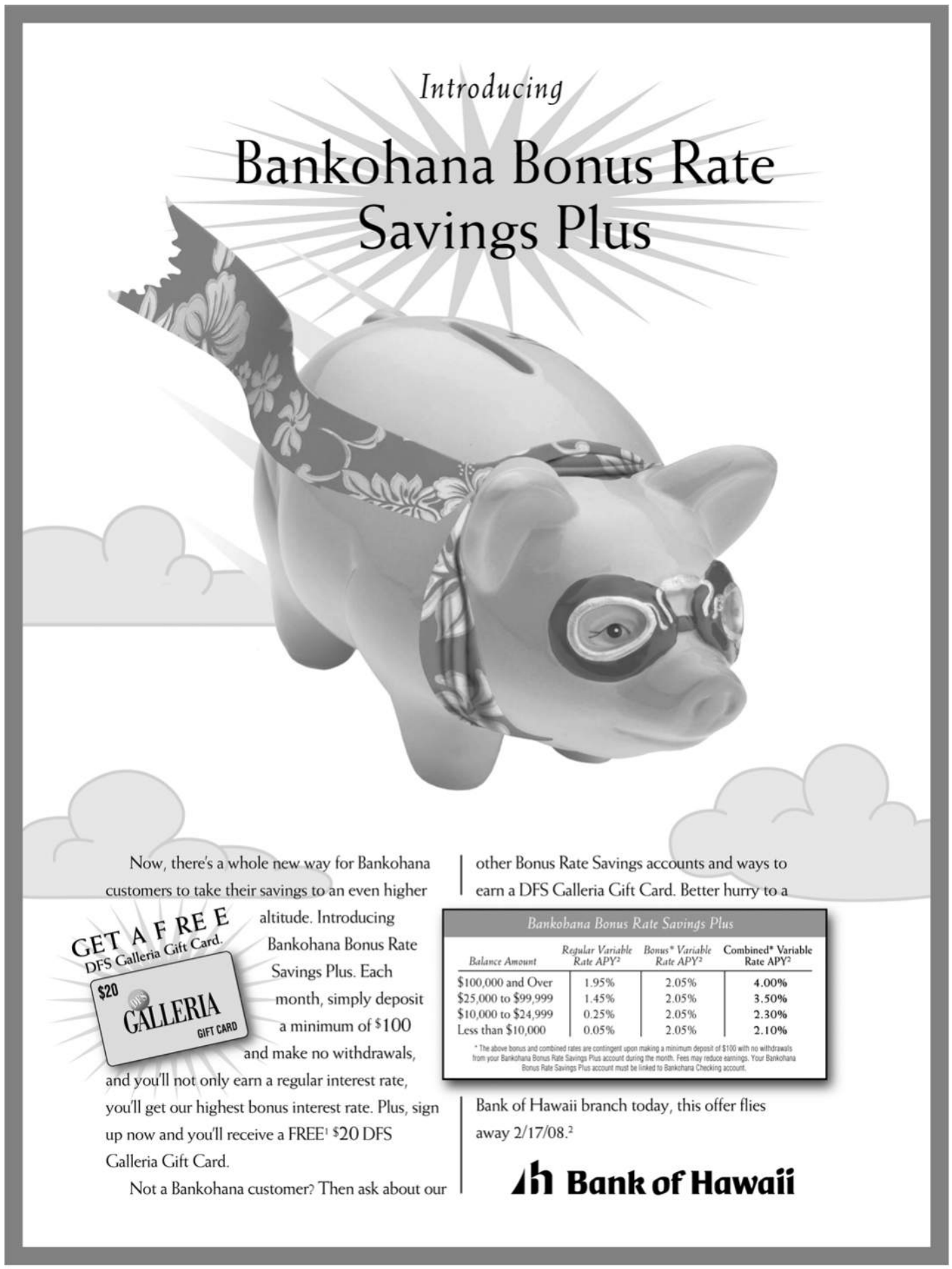
Jan. 26, NJHS Induction Ceremony (details TBA later)

Saturday Reading Program, 8am to 10am/10am to 12pm (breakfast and lunch provided)

Jan. 29, Spelling Bee finals, 2:30pm, WSR cafeteria

Jan. 30, Half-day (Teacher Professional Development Day

The WSR Library will be open from 9am to 4pm from Jan. 2 to Jan. 9. Students and parents are encouraged to come to the library and borrow books and use the resources. ***(PR)***


Introducing
Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus
Now, there's a whole new way for Bankohana customers to take their savings to an even higher altitude. Introducing Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus. Each month, simply deposit a minimum of $100 and make no withdrawals, and you'll not only earn a regular interest rate, you'll get our highest bonus interest rate. Plus, sign up now and you'll receive a FREE[1] $20 DFS Galleria Gift Card.
Not a Bankohana customer? Then ask about our other Bonus Rate Savings accounts and ways to earn a DFS Galleria Gift Card. Better hurry to a Bank of Hawaii branch today, this offer flies away 2/17/08.[2]
GET A FREE DFS Galleria Gift Card.
$20 DFS GALLERIA GIFT CARD
Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus
Balance Amount | Regular Variable Rate APY[2] | Bonus* Variable Rate APY[2] | Combined* Variable Rate APY[2]
$100,000 and Over | 1.95% | 2.05% | 4.00%
$25,000 to $99,999 | 1.45% | 2.05% | 3.50%
$10,000 to $24,999 | 0.25% | 2.05% | 2.30%
Less than $10,000 | 0.05% | 2.05% | 2.10%
* The above bonus and combined rates are contingent upon making a minimum deposit of $100 with no withdrawals from your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus account during the month. Fees may reduce earnings. Your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus account must be linked to Bankohana Checking account.
Bank of Hawaii
[1] $5,000 minimum opening deposit and balance required for new Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus accounts opened by February 17, 2008. Funds to open account may not be from an existing Bank of Hawaii account. Some restrictions apply. You will receive a $20 DFS Galleria Gift Card upon account opening. Limit one $20 DFS Galleria Gift Card per account regardless of the number of accountholders. Limit one per customer. Not available for existing accounts. Good while supplies last. [2] Current Annual Percentage Yields accurate as of 1/2/08 and subject to change without notice. Interest rates and APYs may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce earnings. Some restrictions apply.
boh.com ©2007 Bank of Hawaii Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Hardt Eye Clinic
Experience our Personal touch to Eye Care
Patricia Boyer
enjoys the holidays with her new pair of Pure Titanium Red Rose eyewear.
Our friendly staff will be happy to assist and find the right one for you.
We are open for your convenience 6 days a week.
Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm except Wednesdays from 10:00am to 7:00pm and Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm.
We accept most insurance plans including Aetna, Medicaid, Medicare, Staywell, Calvo's, Netcare, Takecare. Tricare Overseas, and Blue Cross (Federal Govt. employees)
Please call us now at 235-2030
We are located at beach road next to Megabyte.

Pacific

'Culture essential but often ignored'

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—The new Adviser for culture at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Human Development Program, Elise Huffer, says despite its essential role, culture is an area that is often neglected or marginalised in governance and development policy.

Huffer says her position at SPC gives her the opportunity to actively promote culture and address this "deficit." Before joining SPC, she worked for 11 years in the Pacific Studies Program, formerly known as the Institute of Pacific Studies, as a Senior Lecturer and then Associate Professor at the University of the South Pacific.

She says the main cultural issues in the Pacific today are developing a regional cultural strategy, promoting the role of young people in culture, creating greater respect for Pacific people's cultural values, and protecting cultural heritage and traditional knowledge and expressions of culture.

It is also important to highlight the essential role of women who are sometimes neglected in discussions about culture, she says. "Women are strong actors of culture and yet they are also portrayed as being discriminated against by culture. We need to collect and disseminate a lot more data on women's roles in this sector and promote their rightful place."

Huffer, who has an American mother and a French father, says this background has given her a broad perception of culture. "Speaking different languages and understanding different perspectives help instill an appreciation of culture and the importance of its diversity."

This mixed background together with the fact that she has visited and worked in most Pacific Island countries and territories during the course of her tenure with the University of the South Pacific makes her well suited to the role of Culture Adviser at SPC. Particularly impressive is her experience in dealing with culture as a cross-sectoral issue relating it to youth, gender and community-based education and training.

Huffer's ties with SPC go back to the late 1980s when she lived in New Caledonia. As an interesting anecdote, before the organization moved premises in 1995, her house stood where SPC is now located. Over the years she has worked as an SPC consultant —most recently, on culture and gender-related projects. As well as working with other SPC programs in her new job, she looks forward to working with regional associations, organizations and institutions, and international partners.

After six years at SPC, the previous Cultural Affairs Adviser, Rhonda Griffiths, returned to her native Norfolk Island to take up a consultancy role.

Huffer studied in the USA and France and was based at the IRD in New Caledonia where she undertook research on the Pacific for her doctoral thesis in political science and international relations. Her areas of expertise include culture, gender, politics, international relations and governance.

Huffer is a competitive sports-

AP

NZ'S GREATEST SON

The casket of Sir Edmund Hillary is carried from the Auckland Cathedral of the Holy Trinity to St. Mary's Church in preparation for his funeral in Auckland, New Zealand, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008. New Zealanders mourned Tuesday at a state funeral for Mount Everest conqueror and adventurer Hillary, hailed as the South Pacific nation's greatest son. ***See story and more pictures on Page 18.***

PACIFIC BRIEFS

China to provide $2 million for Samoa schools

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Samoa is expecting more than US$2 million, from the Chinese government to help improve youth education in the country. The assistance will be signed today by China's Ambassador in Apia and Prime Minister, Tuila'epa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi, through an economic and technical cooperation agreement between the two countries. A senior officer at the Chinese Embassy says it is up to the Samoan government how to spend the grant which is mainly for infrastructure and school buildings. The embassy official says Samoa should expect more aid in the future. Last year, the Chinese government approved a separate grant for the construction of a new primary school in A'ele village.

US urges fair treatment of Fiji water company

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The United States Embassy in Suva is again urging a prompt conclusion to the current dispute involving Fiji Water Limited. The warning follows reports that the Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority, or FIRCA, has been blocking the American company's shipping agents from exporting their bottled water. The manufacturer of Fiji Water has now filed court proceedings against FIRCA in a bid to resume exports. The US Ambassador in Suva, Larry Dinger, says the example FIRCA and the interim government set regarding fair and impartial treatment in this case will have a major impact on global perceptions of Fiji's investment climate. Dinger told the Fiji Times the U.S. believes that American companies must receive fair and impartial treatment by other governments' authorities throughout the world. He says all U.S. Embassies in their advocacy take that mandate very seriously.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JANUARY 23, 2001

Entry of new Tinian casino nears

TINIAN—The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission is wrapping up its financial and background investigation of Tokyo-based Kirino Consultants, the Japanese firm which has expressed interest in establishing another casino on the island. TCGCC Executive Director Esther H. Barr said a licensing hearing will also be conducted to determine the suitability of the project. Commission investigators recently went to Japan to gather all the documents needed in the background investigation.

BPL digs for grounds to nullify mining licenses

Public Lands Board Chair Tom B. Aldan yesterday assured the public that the agency is looking very closely at persistent clamors to cancel the commercial leases of mining firms in Pagan on several grounds. The reasons could include non-payment of the agreed fees which is reportedly costing CNMI government coffers significant amount of revenues.

EPA rules on shipment of PCB to mainland US

The US Environmental Protection Agency has signed the rule to allow polychlorinated biphenyl-contaminated materials from the territories outside the federal customs zone to be shipped to the mainland US for disposal. The newly-signed rule, according to Guam Rep. Robert A. Underwood, specifically mentioned Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas, and the US Virgin Islands.

JANUARY 23, 2002

Saipan residents celebrate life

Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente led more than 200 Saipan residents, teachers, healthcare workers and students in a march along Beach Road to the American Memorial Park to stress the community's position against abortion practices in the Northern Marianas. The rally was also held in conjunction with the official opening of the Crisis Pregnancy Center and Hotline, which was established to provide assistance and hope to women and teenagers who are unprepared for motherhood.

Gaming industry may fuel economic growth

With the impending phase-out of the garment industry in the Commonwealth in 2004, the government should consider the gaming industry on Tinian as an alternate source of revenue that would keep the CNMI's economic engine going. Tinian Sen. Jose Dela Cruz said he suggested this idea to Gov. Juan N. Babauta during a meeting where they discussed the projected shortfall in revenues brought on by the continuing decline in the local economy.

New fire safety regs unveiled

The Fire Division has introduced fire safety regulations covering commercial and public structures in the CNMI, pursuant to a local legislation that elaborates on public protection against fire hazards and strict penalties for violators. Officials under the Police department's Fire Prevention Section kicked-off yesterday an information dissemination campaign on the uniform fire prevention standards as set forth in Public Law 11-56 or the Commonwealth Fire Safety Code. The regulations officially take effect 30 days commencing today's publication.

JANUARY 23, 2003

Tinian to get own screeners

The West Tinian International Airport is expected to have its own federal screeners soon as the Department of Homeland Security hinted that hiring of Transportation Security Administration airport inspectors may start in March this year. The TSA-Saipan Office disclosed plans to tap the services of a recruitment agency to handle the screening of prospective airport inspectors for Tinian.

Atalig: Latest Compact report in draft form

Commerce Secretary Fermin Atalig clarified yesterday that the figures detailed in the 2003 Impact of the Compact Report submitted to the Governor's Office this week is still a work in progress, although he affirmed the estimated $9.2 million that the CNMI government spent for Micronesian migrants in fiscal year 2002. He said the numbers provided by affected agencies-namely Division of Youth Services, Office of the Public Defender, Public School System, Department of Public Health and Department of Public Safety-on the costs of providing services to citizens of the Freely Associated States could still change.

Island Snapshots

MLK DAY COMMEMORATION

Dr. Kathryn Takara of the University of Hawaii answers a question while panelists Rep. Tina Sablan and Rep. Edward Salas looks on during a forum at the American Memorial Park Visitors center Monday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Dr. Kathryn Takara of the University of Hawaii sing the Negro national anthem together with African-American Cultural Preservation Committee president Joe Hill, Sen. Frica Pangelinan, Rep. Tina Sablan and Fr. Jojo Santos during the Martin Luther King Day celebration.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

U.S. and CNMI flags are flown at the American Memorial Park amphitheater during the Martin Luther King Day celebration.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Dekada president Boni Sagana, Chuck Sayon, and other Unity Group members march at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Kagman High School JROTC cadets carry the U.S. and CNMI flags during the Martin Luther King Day celebration at American Memorial Park amphitheater.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Students beat the drums as they parade for the Martin Luther King Day celebration Monday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rep. Tina Sablan walks past the exhibit for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration at the American Memorial Park Visitors center Monday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

ANTI-FEDERALIZATION RALLY

TaoTao Tano citizen group president Gregorio Cruz joins Rep. Stanley T. Torres and Rep. Raymond D. Palacios during a rally to show their opposition to legislation federalizing CNMI immigration at the Garapan Fishing Base, across the Kristo Rai Church on Beach Road Sunday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

HOUSE SESSION

Rep. Joseph C. Reyes talks while Rep. Rosemond B. Santos and Rep. Raymond D. Palacios listen during Tuesday's session at the House chamber on Capitol Hill.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr., HANMI chairwoman Lynn A. Knight and Senior Policy advisor to the governor Ray Mafnas engage in a discussion during the peaceful rally.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 23

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

John Pangelinan PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Taiwan's democratic lesson

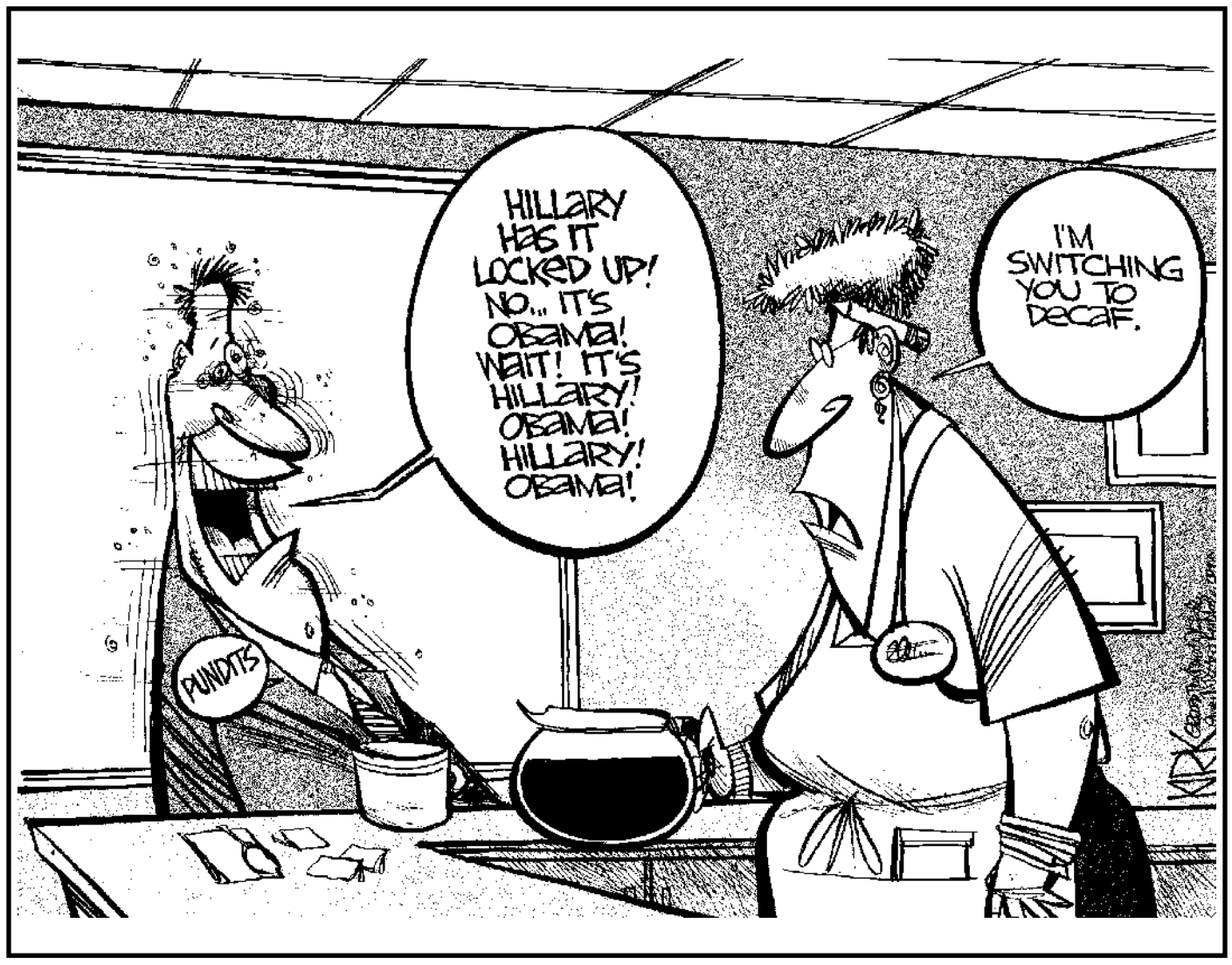
As it has more than once during the past two decades, Taiwan is providing an example of democracy's virtue. Chen Shui-bian, the island's twice-elected president, long ago wore out his welcome with voters; during his eight years in office, economic growth has lagged and corruption has flourished, while Mr. Chen's aggressive and occasionally cynical promotion of the cause of Taiwanese independence has backfired. A week ago, he got his just reward: a landslide victory in legislative elections by the opposition Nationalist party (KMT), which won 81 of 113 seats, compared with just 27 for Mr. Chen's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). Mr. Chen was obliged to step down as party president, and the DPP's underdog candidate in the presidential election scheduled for March 22, Frank Hsieh, has adopted a considerably more moderate line toward China.

You'd think even China's Communists would be toasting Taiwan's free elections, which have served to humiliate Beijing's foremost political adversary and discredit his agenda. Nationalist leader Ma Ying-jeou, a heavy favorite in the presidential election, has promised a rapid improvement in ties with the mainland, including direct flights, more tourism and direct investment.

Yet rather than pocket its victory, the government of President Hu Jintao spent two days last week browbeating visiting Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte about a referendum Mr. Chen has scheduled on the same day as the presidential vote. In a ploy to boost turnout for the DPP, the outgoing president is asking voters to decide whether the government should apply for membership in the United Nations under the name Taiwan, rather than Republic of China. Though the vote is meaningless—Taiwan will not gain U.N. membership under any name—and though the Bush administration has already loudly condemned the referendum as "provocative," Mr. Hu's foreign minister demanded that the United States "more firmly oppose" holding the vote. How Washington is supposed to stop Taiwan's president from conducting a democratic exercise permitted by the country's constitution was not explained.

The odd thing about this contretemps—in addition to China's presumption that the best way to prevent an undesired political development in Taiwan is to publicly order Washington to dictate to Taipei—is that the referendum is widely expected to fail, for the same reasons that Mr. Chen's party was just swamped in the congressional election. If Mr. Chen's proposition, or his party's presidential candidate, has any hope of victory, it is that China's heavy-handed pressure tactics will touch off a backlash. Not for the first time, Mr. Hu's contempt for democracy is risking the vital interests of his own party.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



A word of encouragement for Saipanpreneurs

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Some time recently, I was discussing the topic of relationships with a dear friend. She commented on the drama she always seems to encounter when dealing with the men in her life. She wondered aloud why even men she thought were just friends had expectations of her that were more in line with an intimate relationship. From where I stood, it was obvious that there was something wrong with the picture she was painting. Though she said she and her current "friend" were indeed "just friends," I knew that she was not addressing the real issue. I knew from previous conversations that both she and her "friend" really wanted something more than just friendship, but had decided it unwise given their individual situations. They decided, in effect, to move forward and build a relationship built on a lie—never fully addressing the underlying motives, and unexpressed desires that each one was bringing to the relationship.

Until she addresses the real issue of the type of relationship both she and her "friend" really want from each other, everything they do will be just a façade. I explained that any relationship entered into under false pretense is doomed to difficulty. Attempting to solve any difficulty while avoiding the bigger picture simply compounds the deception and creates drama. I told her that operating under the wrong premise and missing the big picture was like being on the *Titanic* during its last hours and asking people for directions to the shuffleboard contest!

Similarly, many of us will, in fact, miss the lifeboat of happiness because we don't realize that the big-picture-truth is that we're on a sinking ship. That sinking ship and that lie that many of us labor under often comes from what others have defined us to be. We've been deceived. We haven't been told the truth about ourselves, so we cannot ever really be true to the truth of ourselves. Consequently, we live our lives chasing an illusion of happiness within a life that's going nowhere but down. The greatest lie that you live is that of someone else's perception of who you are.

Have you ever thought about what your life would have been like if your parents and teachers had encouraged you to follow your gift of sports prowess, or your penchant for art, or your love of animals rather than push you to be an accountant or an engineer or a lawyer, or something more practical? It's an interesting thought to ponder. But don't spend too much time pondering and regretting, because it really doesn't matter. I'd like to suggest to you that there's no such thing as a wrong decision. There are no mistakes. There are simply choices and opportunities to grow and learn. Every single decision you've made, or that was made for you, has contributed to you being here at this very moment reading this article, hopefully ready to make a change in your life. Everything you've learned along the way—even the unhappiness and frustration you've experience—will help you to discover your passion and incorporate it more fully into your life. In fact, if you decide to pursue your passion, as the journey evolves, you may find yourself thanking your parents and teachers for giving you the opportunity to discover who you want to be by having successfully shown you who you are not. Sometimes your greatest growth comes after experiencing a situation that simply confirms for you the reality that you don't want.

So don't beat yourself up over the decisions you've made. As a wise man once said, "Pity not the man for the challenges he faces, but for the lessons not learned in his responses." The tragedy is not that in the past you were steered in a direction that was not toward your passion. The tragedy will be if you allow yourself to keep going in that direction once you recognize the power you have in the present. Everyone will learn their lessons eventually. For some people it will take a little longer (maybe several lifetimes). Others will recognize the lessons in an instant, get themselves out of there, and move on.

With that said, hopefully you are now ready to look at the big picture, and to discover your own personal truth—to find and pursue your passion. In addition to the personal fulfillment of living a life of truth, there is another compelling reason why you'll want to look seriously at turning your passion into profit as route to success. That reason is basic survival. You may not realize it, but your survival

See A WORD on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Explaining the US to my Iraqi interpreter

By NATE SLATE
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Not long ago, I finally succeeded in arranging for my Iraqi cultural adviser to move to the safety of the United States. My adviser—whom I'll call by his tribal name, al-Dulaimi—helped me navigate the thickets of local culture and politics when I served in Iraq during the first year of the war.

As we drove from the airport down an Oklahoma highway in the darkness, Dulaimi told me that he'd watched the Democratic presidential debates while waiting for his flight out West. "They all talked about leaving Iraq," he said of the candidates. "They're just saying that to get votes, aren't they? They would never do that, would they?"

His plaintive question gave me pause. Of course, Dulaimi wouldn't understand American politics, or the way some Americans would view this war. After all, he had known American soldiers who were selfless and dedicated. Who cherished Army values. Who had committed their lives to each other and this cause.

So it would seem impossible to Dulaimi that the United States might give up. The Americans he knew, the ones he had risked his life (and the lives of his family members) to support, would never "cut and run."

As a brigade commander in Iraq, I wouldn't have been able to function without Dulaimi. Where an interpreter may be simply a talking head, a cultural adviser is a trusted agent. He is the man who helps you put your military operation in context. He allows you to see the village as a native would. He helps you come up with the course of action that saves American lives, and Iraqi lives as well.

Al-Qaida in Iraq also knows what it means to be a cultural adviser. Philosophically, a cultural adviser is working for much more than money; he is working to transform the country. Before we left Iraq, Dulaimi's name was put on a death warrant and posted on the wall of the village mosque. Death squads patrolled the streets looking for him and other collaborators from the area. Dulaimi lived under what amounted to house arrest for many months, guarded by his family in his village. Working through the U.S. departments of Defense and Homeland Security, we finally managed to free Dulaimi from his torment on our fourth attempt.

As it turned out, the paperwork was not the difficult part. Physically getting him out of Iraq was. Telling everyone in his village a cover story about his whereabouts, we finally succeeded in finding a neighboring country that would allow Dulaimi to pass.

When he finally landed at the airport in Oklahoma City, it seemed almost surreal. I had kept in touch with him since I last saw him at our departure ceremony in Iraq in 2004. His weekly cellphone updates informed me that many of the good people who had supported us in the villages had been killed by the insurgents. Some of the killings had been horrific. Those who lived had survived a nightmare. Dulaimi was pleased that the Americans had finally allowed his village to form a militia and to drive al-Qaida in Iraq from his area. He held no animosity that we had left them for a time to their own devices.

With typical Iraqi resilience, he looked to the future with guarded optimism. He was a marked man, but he did not believe that his country had to be. Amazingly, because of the recent progress made by his village's militia, he still believed that victory was possible in Iraq. His only worry was the Iraqi government. After more than two years of being victimized by his own government, he had no faith in the current system.

Our recent success with the Sunnis in Anbar province is unsettling to the Shiite-led government. They remember the hard lessons of the British occupation. They cannot afford to push the United States to align with the Sunnis. We must take this opportunity to correct the flawed government we put in place. We cannot afford to use hope as a method. Success in Iraq is not possible without a revised constitution (as detailed by the Iraqi scholar Kanan Makiya). Only a strong central government can control the ambitions of regional politicians and ward off civil war.

The good work of our men and women in uniform will be needed for some time, but it will not be enough. A pullout is not the right answer, but neither is military force alone. As usual, things are not black and white, and the truth lies in the middle.

When I turned to answer Dulaimi's question about the heart of America, I didn't duck the obvious. Yes, we could pull out of Iraq. As bizarre as it sounds to anyone who has given a piece of themselves to this effort, retreat is possible. However, it is unnecessary. The current government in Iraq lacks leadership. Leadership is the answer. I wait to hear a presidential candidate address what is really needed to succeed in Iraq. As Dulaimi has so quickly learned, we are all waiting for our leaders to address the obstacles to the road ahead.

Nate Slate, a recently retired Army colonel, works for a defense contractor.

Letters to the Editor

Clarifications on federalization bill

I am writing to correct some of the factual errors in a letter that appeared in your Saturday edition ("Hodges' distortions are shameful, *Saipan Tribune*, Jan. 19, 2008). HR 3079 will not deport all foreign workers, as the letter writer claims. Section 102(a)(2)(E) states the intent of the Congress is, among other things, to provide a "mechanism for the continued use of alien workers, to the extent those workers continue to be necessary to supplement the Commonwealth's resident workforce, and to protect those workers from the potential for abuse and exploitation."

The bill would establish a Transitional Guest Worker Program to provide alien workers to those sectors of the CNMI economy that still need alien workers to supplement the resident workforce, in accordance with "reasonable . . . criteria determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security to promote the maximum use of, and to prevent adverse effects on, wages and working conditions of [resident] workers." HR 3079 would strike a balance between using alien workers where they are needed, but not allowing so many that resident workers find themselves priced out of the job market.

The Commonwealth will have a say in whether the Transitional Guest Worker Program is extended, contrary to the assertions of the letter writer. The bill provides that the U.S. "Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Governor of the Commonwealth, shall ascertain the current and anticipated labor needs of the Commonwealth and determine whether an extension, in up to a 5-year increment, of the provisions of this subsection are necessary to ensure an adequate number of workers will be available for legitimate businesses in the Commonwealth." The transition period can be extended indefinitely if a genuine need can be demonstrated.

The bill also provides that any alien "who is lawfully present and authorized to be employed in the Commonwealth pursuant to the immigration laws of the Commonwealth on the transition program effective date shall be considered authorized by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be employed in the Commonwealth" until their contract runs out, or two years after the transition period effective date, during and after which their employers may sponsor them for H visas, or they can participate in the transitional guest worker program.

Alien workers may also benefit from the CNMI's exemption from the numeric caps on H workers. The rest of the country only gets a certain amount of H worker visas, so businesses must compete to get them. After the bill passes, CNMI employers will be able to apply for all the H worker visas they need; the cap doesn't apply to us during the transition period (which, as noted above, can be extended indefinitely if necessary). And, skilled workers brought in under H-1 visas can apply for lawful permanent resident (LPR) status after five years and get a "green card."

Of course, one of the greatest benefits the bill would extend to alien workers participating in the transitional guest worker program is the right to freely transfer from one employer to another, at will, as long as the new employer is also in a segment of the economy the Secretary has determined is in need of alien workers. So, if a worker isn't being paid, he or she can simply go to another employer, without risking the loss of status and subsequent deportation the current law threatens them with.

The current law, on the other hand, ties each worker to a single employer, restricts workers' right to complain to a very brief period, and threatens a worker who complains with loss of his or her claims and deportation if Labor finds the worker has committed any of a number of violations unrelated to the subject of their complaint.

For example, under the new law, if a guest worker files a complaint, he could be asked whether he had complied with all the provisions of his contract; if he had not, he could be denied transfer and sent home. He could also be asked whether he had engaged in any work during the period his employer wasn't paying him, or after his employer had abandoned him; whether he had ever paid his own application fee or renewal fee; whether he had ever given any misleading information to Labor or any government employee, orally or in writing; and whether he had worked for his own employer before his contract had been approved, or after it had expired, even if he was being renewed and his employer told him it was legal to do so. If he answers "yes" to any of those questions, it would be "grounds for deportation . . . and forfeiture of all claims" under the new law. We should all be very concerned about whether these parts of the new law will have a chilling effect on a worker's right to file a complaint.

Jim Benedetto
Federal Ombudsman

'CPA is the new MPLA'

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has become the new MPLA for junket travels. In December, CPA paid over $4,000 for 10 of their employees to travel to Tinian for a Christmas party. This week, three CPA board members are off to Hawaii to the tune of $3,900 EACH. This does not include the conference costs and other amenities. The total cost to taxpayers for the two-day conference, according to the information in the news, is an unbelievable $13,885.

The islands' economy would be much more solvent if those in charge put a stop to all of the wasteful travel expenditures. But this has been going on for a long time...apparently no one is in charge, or no one cares, or (more likely) these are examples of entitlements that the connected feel are part of their privileged right as being... well, one of the connected.

I commend CPA chairman Rex Palacios for not going. I also commend him for requesting (if, in fact, he did) the CPA audit currently ongoing by the Office of the Public Auditor. I guess the three CPA board members wanted to get one last freebie junket before Mike Sablan drops the hammer. Maybe next time they'll save us money and use video conferencing.

I did a five-minute check of airline tickets from Saipan to Hawaii. If booked in advance without even trying for any discounts, the price for the same days in February is about $1,500. And isn't $250 per diem a little steep? I can understand one person going to an important conference. I can understand $100 a day per diem. I can understand per diem only for the conference days. But this obvious abuse of taxpayers' money, to the tune of $18,000 in two months, is simply more of the same old problem we face from our self-enriching leaders. For your next wasteful junket, let me know...I'll get a fair price for an airline ticket (as opposed to the inflated price your agent gives you) and place the difference into island improvements.

On the subject of wasteful travel... please, someone (Governor Fitial?) tell the public what has happened to the OPA audit of the MPLA. Why have those people never been brought to justice for their outrageously flagrant abuse of taxpayers' money for their personal travel? Does the government allow this wanton abuse to continue? If MPLA could get away with this, then it sends the message to others that it's allowed behavior.

If we are serious about saving money and helping the folks on Saipan, then put a complete stop to all travel. At least until the economy improves. It's been said before in hundreds of letters to the papers: if the government is serious about making improvements, then let it start by cleaning its own house and stop wasting our money—money that is critically needed for improvements on power, water, education, attracting investors, and a host of other projects. Unfortunately, it indeed has all been said before. Is anyone on Capital Hill listening? Or care?

Bill Weiss
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲80° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼74°	▲79° ▼73°	▲79° ▼73°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲85	▼73
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼76

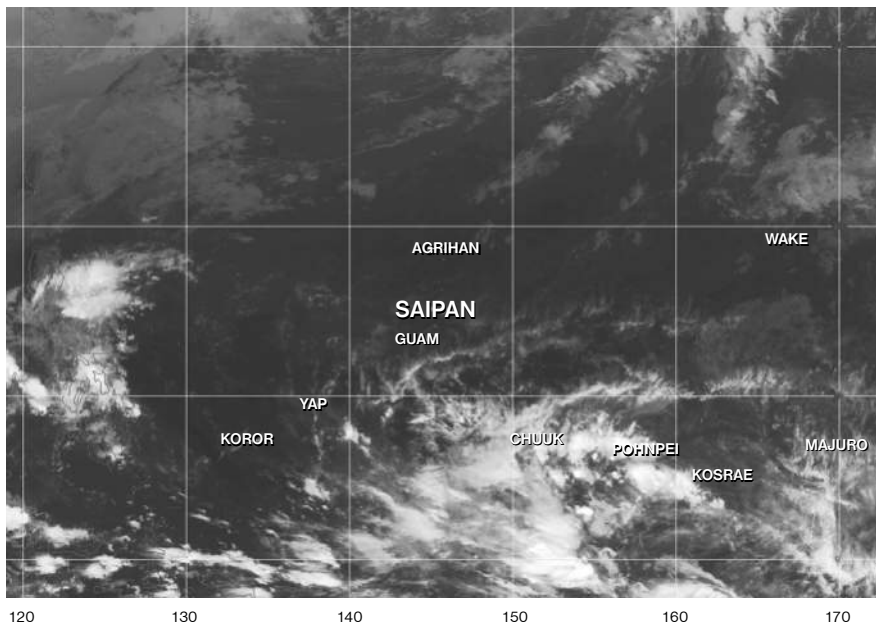
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲75	▼67
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲29	▼13
Hong Kong	Showers	▲69	▼61
Honolulu	Showers	▲76	▼68
London	Cloudy	▲54	▼43
Los Angeles	Rain	▲63	▼48
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼65
Miami	Cloudy	▲80	▼65
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲33	▼25
Osaka	Rain/Snow	▲48	▼29
Paris	Showers	▲50	▼41
Pusan	Windy	▲38	▼19
Rome	Sunny	▲53	▼31
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲40	▼27
San Francisco	Rain	▲52	▼42
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲30	▼13
Tokyo	Rain	▲45	▼37
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲39	▼23

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
02:09AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
09:16AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
02:38PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
07:28PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JAN. 22, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trough extends from eq155E to 5N151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough can be found south of Chuuk between the equator and 5N from 145E to 155E. Trade-wind convergence to the east of the above mentioned trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms 120 miles north and south of a line that stretches from 7N151E to Kosrae. This area covered portions of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae States. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Yap 75 miles north and south of a line that stretches from 8N138E to 9N148E. A weak trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers north of Kwajalein between 10N and 16N from 161E to 169E and near Majuro between 8N and 10N from 169E to 178E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47AM	6:10PM
Thursday	6:47AM	6:11PM
Friday	6:47AM	6:11PM
Saturday	6:47AM	6:12PM
Sunday	6:47AM	6:12PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	06:53PM	07:10AM
Thursday	07:49PM	07:56AM
Friday	08:42PM	08:36AM
Saturday	09:32PM	09:13AM
Sunday	10:20PM	09:49AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Guam-Nagoya

CO 971	7:45am	10:30am	1,2,4,5,6,7
NW 023	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO 904	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Guam-Narita

JO 982	4:15am	7:00am	Daily
CO 961	7:20am	9:55am	Daily
CO 006	1:00pm	3:45pm	Daily
JO 942	3:30pm	6:15pm	Daily
NW 081	3:55pm	6:50pm	Daily
NW 073	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO 963	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Nagoya-Guam

NW 024	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily
CO 970	11:30am	4:00pm	Daily
CO 905	8:25pm	12:50am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Narita-Guam

JO 941	9:30am	2:05pm	Daily
NW 074	9:45am	2:25pm	Daily
CO 962	11:05am	3:35pm	Daily
CO 007	5:15pm	9:50pm	Daily
NW 082	8:30pm	1:15am+1	Daily
CO 964	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
JO 981	9:30pm	2:05am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

Shanghai-Saipan

MU 589	8:05am	3:00am+1	1,5

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contribution are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Letters to the Editor

A call for leadership enterprise

It was in no way a surprise for me to witness how much as islanders we have not elapsed from our unconditional value of family and friendship. In my career as an Army officer, I have had many opportunities to visit several places around the globe besides our beautiful United States. I have traveled, whether long or simply for a short duration, through Bosnia, Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and now South Korea. I enjoyed observing and understanding the vast cultures of those countries. Each of them has its own measure for how, as a people, they value family and camaraderie.

However, as I have mentioned before, nothing, and I mean nothing, compares to how we as islanders from our wonderful U.S. Commonwealth express our love and care for each other as a family. The family traditions that we value and uncover as the foundation of our heritage is stronger than any other culture, from any part of the world in my estimation. I truly believe that my recent visit validated my theory on this because I experienced some of the greatest family and friendship associations during my stay. My wife Gina and I of course lived this lifestyle during our childhood years on the island, and to come back and see that it still exists is indeed a magnificent experience. The celebrations we have for each other as relatives and friends mean so much that we stick together and persevere to overcome whatever the present conditions may bring.

This is absolutely one thing we must continue and never depart from the very essence and spirit of the family and friendship, which we by the way inherited from our ancestors whom history has recorded to have practiced the same values. Moreover, our Catholic and Christian teachings through Jesus Christ have solidified this priceless tradition. Therefore, if we continue to hold on to our valuable birthright, family and friendship, we will endure and eventually win our way out of the current economic state of affairs we find ourselves in.

We must continue to cherish our ideals for family and friendship interaction. However, we must at the same time continue to dig deep within our conscience and ethics to organize and lead our islands as we shape the future of our grandchildren and their grandchildren. Do we continue to teach and bless them with the same cultural heritage of family and friendship? Absolutely! But if we preserve our family and friendship values, are there other aspects of our lives today that we necessarily must change? Yes, indeed. What are they? After listening to many folks during my visit, I have come to the conclusion that, although we treasure our good times together today, we still need to be more passionate about our efforts to improve ourselves and shape tomorrow for our grandkids and their grandkids. What do I mean by this? It seems as though our Commonwealth is filled with individuals who hold leadership titles and authorities. As a graduate in the studies of leadership and one who continues to apply the theories in the discipline, let me share what my definition of leadership is: Leadership is passionately influencing others to accomplish organizational goals and objectives through chaos and turbulence. It is to empower, inspire, and motivate those who impact organizational changes to work as a team with a shared commitment in order to adapt to environmental pressures. Leadership is complete when the organization is improved and a positive legacy is in place. It is when others are better today because of yesterday's investments. Thus, the novelty of those who are developed today becomes vital to influencing and shaping tomorrow's outlook. This definition obviously applies to all those in leadership positions within both our private and government sectors.

As leaders, we must ask ourselves about our passion to lead and what purpose we serve in our position. What is our vision? What are the goals and set criterion have we put in place to realize that vision? Where do we see our individual contributions to be most effective amongst the team? If our leaders' vision is to prepare today's livelihood circumstances for future generations, then we must evaluate where in the process we may perhaps be deficient in. Accordingly, we must also evaluate where in the process we can identify and discover opportunity and potential.

My assessment of our common economic state is that we are on the edge of chaos. Times are turbulent and times call for change. Our CNMI is at the sweet spot in the concept of complex adaptive system. Where's the evidence? If you have not noticed yet, we have young and old yet innovative leaders spearheading the drive and calling for change. I have had lengthy discussions with some of my childhood friends who are doing just that within the confines of their leadership positions in both the government and in the private sector. They are audaciously leading effective and efficient operations despite political pressures. For that reason, we must recognize these attributes and allow them to explore and apply their innovation to move our island society forward. We must not allow politics to get in the way and discourage them from doing so. We tried that already and when our CNMI was deep within the flourishing era, our leaders worked tirelessly to preserve the good times; however, because of political pressures, economic ignorance, and egocentricity, they undeniably failed to think ahead and devise a vision to sustain the momentum of such prosperity, or at least prepare the people for austerity. But that was the past and this is the present.

At the moment, we have leaders who are leaping forward to stimulate progress, and more importantly are foreseeing what the future holds. One way we can be successful now is to permit these leaders to influence transformation today in order to facilitate modernism, which as a result will set the stage for our grandchildren and their grandchildren's future. If we listen carefully to the voices of our future generations, and work together on this, we can almost hear the whispers of tomorrow saying: Thank you for shaping their world.

In closing, I urge and I challenge every individual to work together with the same mindset for collective progress and development. Just as we practice our heritage of family and friendship, so too can we work as a team to bring our CNMI back to its competitiveness against the rest of the region. Just as we celebrate as a family at home, we must work and excite each other to achieve greatness professionally on the playing fields of our government and the global setting. As citizens, we must mutually strive and pressure our government and business leaders to also work together because it does not look like they are doing much of that yet. The existing political figure-pointing and egocentric mindset must come to an end. Together, we must work toward a common purpose. The vision must be communicated and everyone must buy into it. Today's vision to shape tomorrow using our talented and innovative leaders is not a bad start. As young leaders watch old and wise ones, I ask the old and wise to also listen to the change in paradigm that our young leaders call for. Again, I bid my warmest Hafa Adai and I send forth my grateful appreciation to all!

Maj. Lawrence Fejeran Camacho
United States Army
Waegwon, South Korea

My 2-cents

I agree with Mr. Jess Torres in his letter published last Jan. 16, 2008, suggesting an imposition of tariffs and quotas on some imported items. Under normal circumstance, importers are free to supply and consumers have the right to choose but given our present economic condition, the government should step in to help the people maximize their purchasing power. I shop for food once a week and I know that there are already a good number of items that can be locally supplied, given the chance. Do we even wonder how many containers of tilapia from Taiwan are coming in every week? Tilapia can be bred locally, just like shrimps, chickens (which produce eggs), pigs and cows, etc. And based on the number of trucks you see on the road selling fruits and vegetables, we can only guess that we already have enough farms. These are products that need minimal or no raw materials at all.

I'm not an economist but here's my 2-cents take on what the government and us, as the consumers, can do:

a) Form cooperatives to produce items that are currently produced but not enough for the demand or items that are not produced locally yet. The co-ops can also sell their products.

b) Government to strictly regulate the farms to make sure that farmers are not using cheap fertilizers and other chemicals that are even harmful just to produce cheap fruits and vegetables.

c) Regulate importation of items that can be produced locally by levying higher excise tax and imposing quotas.

d) Government to facilitate relevant trainings and workshops.

e) Come up with incentives and good support system for local producers to help them compete.

As a consumer, I will patronize local products if I know that the quality is good and if they are reasonably priced. We have people on island like Walt Goodridge who can help make things happen. Perhaps we can make use of his talent to help us start something. It's a long shot but is achievable. I hope the government takes on the challenge as well.

Irene N. Tantiado
Chinatown, Garapan

Thanks and bon voyage!

On behalf of all OWWA-OFW Support Group members, we would like to extend our warmest and sincere appreciation to Mr. Ferdinad M. Bacani, an Administrative Staff of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office at the Philippine Consular Post of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. Bacani's valuable and dedicated service to all overseas Filipino workers on Saipan as POLO Administrative Officer is of great importance and he deserves to be regarded as a great servant and commendable government employee. As we OSG members devoted ourselves during our free time in assisting the Philippines Overseas Labor Office and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration in your quest to serve overseas Filipino workers with their labor, employment and welfare problems, we found out that your expertise in public service is a remarkable one. You have extended tremendous understanding and induced moral values to all OFW that are in need here in Saipan. Bon voyage to you on your way back home to the Philippines and best wishes to your new assignment wherever it is. We, the OSG members will always remember you as a good friend and outstanding public servant.

God Bless and more power!

Carlito Jimenez Marquez
Chairman, OSG Welfare Committee
Puerto Rico, Saipan

A WORD

From Page 10

on both a financial and mental level is in the balance. In case you haven't realized, the game has changed. In order to prosper in this new era, a new strategy with new activities will be needed. Here are some tips for what that strategy should include.

Build assets

In his book, *Rich Dad, Poor Dad*, author Robert T. Kiyosaki shares the secret of why the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. What keeps the poor battling in poverty is their failure to create assets that generate money. When most average people get some extra money, be it a pay raise or lottery winnings, they immediately seek to buy things that end up increasing their liabilities. They buy gas-guzzling cars, tax-draining homes, and indulge in expensive habits that deplete their earnings and put them in a worse position than before. The key to wealth is to focus on building assets that generate wealth so your money works for you to create more money. Kiyosaki lists as his choice of assets to invest in: stocks, bonds, mutual funds, income-producing real estate, notes, royalties and your own business. A business that can generate money without your presence is one of the best and most liberating and lucrative assets to own.

Create multiple streams of income

In times past, it was possible to sustain a family on a single stream of income. As society changed, the era of the two-income household was ushered in. Both mom and dad now had to work just to maintain the same standard of living. As things continue to change, unless mom and dad create more streams of income in addition to what they're currently making, their standard of living will start to slip away. Economic uncertainty brought about by technological advancements, a declining labor market, and inflation makes it more necessary than ever to have one or several "plan Bs" in place.

Diversification doesn't only apply to your stock portfolio anymore. To survive you need to create additional streams of income each strong enough to support you should any one dry up.

Seek sanity and stay healthy

It's often said that the definition of insanity is "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Many people continue to deny their passions every day, showing up to a job that offers them no fulfillment, while expecting some day that something miraculous will happen to bring them happiness. It's the ultimate in self-deception and insanity to expect an outcome of truth from a life lived as a lie.

Now, I can't actually prove this, but I'm sure you intuitively know this to be true as well that people who are doing what they love live longer and happier lives. Studies do show, however, that stress (the regular stress of being in a job you hate, perhaps?) can dampen the immune system's ability to fight off disease. Studies have shown, also, that having regular social interaction with others may be as important to your health as good nutrition and exercise. And guess what? Making new friends is often easier if you are doing something you love and interacting with others who share your interests.

So, as this first month of the new year passes, and as you work on maintaining any resolutions or goals you may have set for yourself, don't forget to include honoring your passion and your purpose as being the bigger picture of it all. And, learn from the mistake of my friend, and don't enter into a relationship with life with an unexpressed dream. The only way for life to give you what you deserve is to ask of it what you desire.

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

Business

Oil drops below $90 a barrel

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell Monday in Asia as concern over the U.S. economy drove down regional stock markets and outweighed concern that OPEC will resist pressure to raise crude production levels.

Oil prices have now retreated more than $10 from a record above $100 a barrel early this year on worries a flagging U.S. economy would dampen fuel demand. Prices had gained Friday on hopes that President George W. Bush's economic stimulus plan would work.

But most stock markets have since reacted pessimistically, uncertain Bush's plan is enough to stave off a severe economic downturn in the world's largest oil consumer. Asian markets plunged Monday, with benchmark indices in Hong Kong and China both dropping more than 5 percent. On Friday in the U.S., the Dow Jones industrials fell 0.5 percent after Bush announced a $145 billion tax relief package.

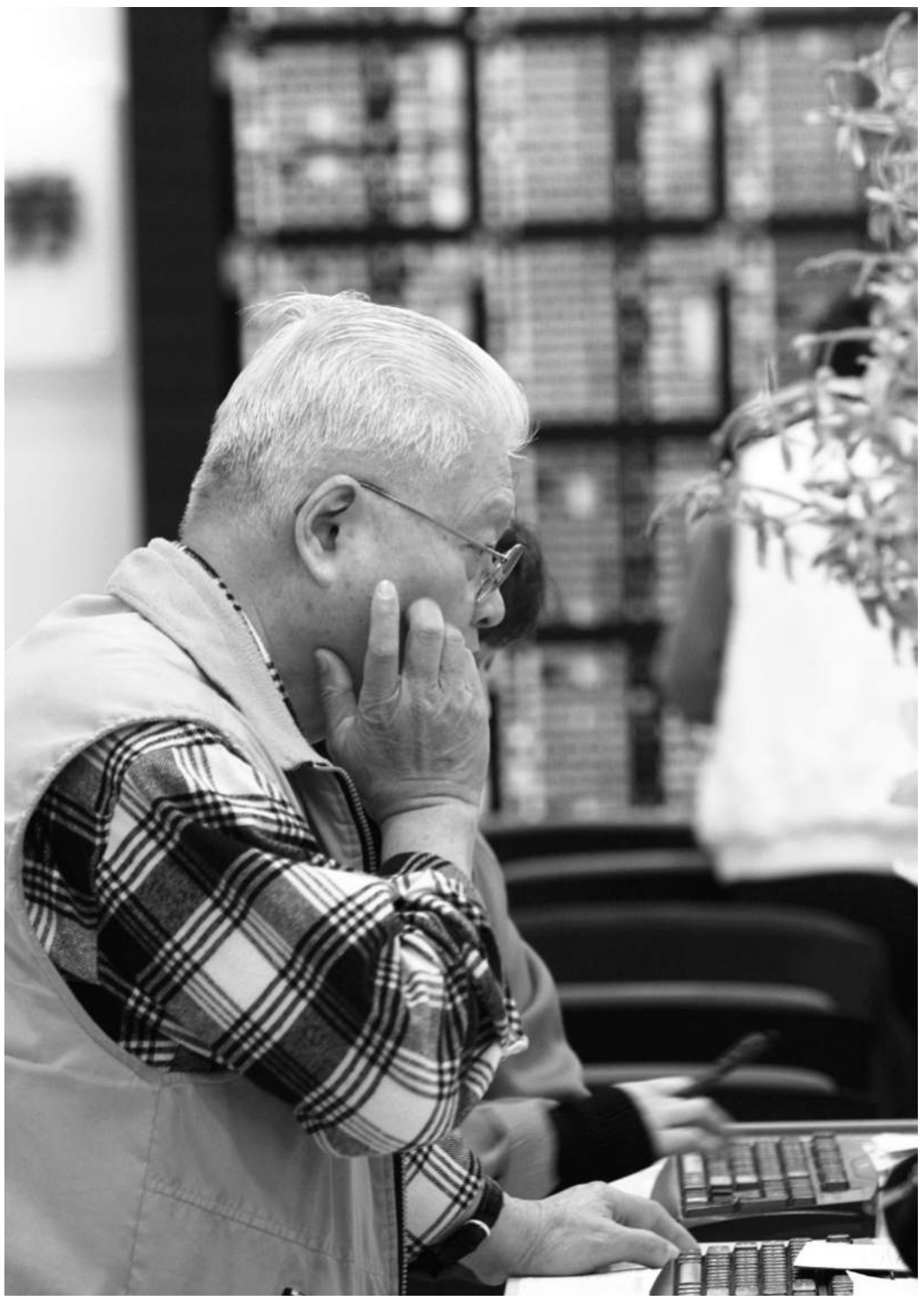
Light, sweet crude for February delivery fell 97 cents to $89.60 a barrel in Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by late afternoon in Singapore. The contract rose 44 cents to settle at $90.57 a barrel on Friday.

The Organization of Oil Exporting Countries should increase its oil output in order to meet growing demand, U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman told Saudi Arabia's oil minister Saturday.

The Saudi Arabian oil minister, Ali Naimi, said earlier last week his country would raise production levels only when the market justifies it. The current inventory seemed normal, he said.

Bodman's visit to Saudi Arabia, which has the world's largest supply of oil, comes just before a Feb. 1 OPEC meeting in which the oil cartel could consider increasing oil production.

"At this point, the market really does not expect an increase in output although there could still be a surprise," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.



AP

A Taiwanese investor watches stocks dive more than 500 points, or 6 percent, during mid-day of trading on the Taipei stock exchange in Taipei, Taiwan, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008.

Asia markets tumble on US worries

TOKYO (AP)—Global stock markets extended their shakeout into a second day Tuesday, plunging amid worries that a possible U.S. recession will cause a worldwide economic slowdown. The dramatic declines were expected to spread to Wall Street, where stock index futures were already down sharply hours before the trading day began.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index, the benchmark for Asia's biggest bourse, skidded 4.4 percent in morning trading to 12,738.31 points, after dropping 3.9 percent Monday. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was down 5.2 percent after plunging 5.5 percent the day before.

"Unless we get some positive 'shock effects,' such as drastic measures from the U.S. government, there is almost no hope for a recovery in stocks," said Koji Takeuchi, senior economist at Mizuho Research Institute in Tokyo.

U.S. markets were closed Monday for a holiday commemorating civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. But Wall Street future prices were down sharply, portending a plunge when trading begins at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time.

Dow Jones industrial average futures were down 436 points, or 3.6 percent, at 11,670, while Standard & Poor's 500 futures were down 57.1 points, or 4.3 percent, at 1,268.

Schumer: Expand those helped by stimulus

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Any rebate included in an economic stimulus plan should include people who pay Social Security taxes, not just those who pay income taxes, a leading Democratic lawmaker said Sunday.

"If we did the rebate based on the payroll tax, it would hit a lot more people at a lower end of the spectrum. And so to just say income taxes are the only taxes we're considering that people pay is unfair," said Charles Schumer, the New York lawmaker who is chairman of the congressional Joint Economic Committee. People making $35,000 to $50,000 pay a lot of federal taxes, he said, but much of that is not income tax, but directed to programs like Social Security.

Democrats and the Bush administration say they want to reach a quick agreement so the economic stimulus can be applied quickly to the struggling economy. But any Democratic insistence on covering those who don't pay income tax could be a cause of conflict.

The White House, for now, envisions providing one-time rebate checks to people who pay federal income taxes. That would leave out millions of the working poor, who do not make enough to pay income taxes but do pay Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Nissan sees US as tough market for sales

TOKYO (AP)—A top Nissan executive said Monday that selling cars in the United States is going to be tough this year because of a likely U.S. economic slowdown amid problems in the credit and housing markets as well as a stronger yen. Automakers and analysts are predicting that this year's U.S. auto sales could drop to their lowest level in a decade to about 16 million vehicles or lower. Nissan Motor Co. Chief Operating Officer Toshiyuki Shiga said he was still hopeful that Nissan's new products will attract customers. Nissan's recent offerings in the U.S., including the Altima sedan, were proving popular, and Japan's No. 3 automaker still had a chance to keep the "momentum" going in U.S. sales, he said.

Sanyo to sell cell phone unit to Kyocera

TOKYO (AP)—Sanyo Electric Co. said Monday it will sell its troubled mobile phone operations to Kyocera Corp. The two electronics companies have said the value of the business to be transferred is about 40 billion yen ($374 million). Including debt the deal—set for completion April 1—is worth about 50 billion yen ($467 million), although the companies have yet to agree on a final transaction price. Sanyo started making mobile phones in 1994 and has supplied several key mobile phone carriers for both in and outside the country. But the company faced "intensified competition from rival companies," Sanyo said in a statement. "In order to meet the best interest of the business and its stockholders, Sanyo has ... concluded that a transfer of the business to Kyocera would be the ideal solution."

Chinese bank shares fall sharply

BEIJING (AP)—Shares in China's banks fell sharply Monday after news reports said its No. 2 lender, Bank of China, might write down holdings of U.S. mortgage securities and two others increased reserves for possible losses. The reports were the first indication that Chinese lenders, which have so far avoided damage from the U.S. credit crisis, might face problems due to their holdings of subprime securities. Also Monday, China's banking regulator warned that lenders might face risks from fluctuations in fast-rising real estate prices. Bank of China is expected to announce a "significant writedown" on its $7.95 billion in U.S. subprime mortgage securities, Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper reported, citing unidentified sources.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	5,278.900 Down 352.000 (-6.25%)
HONG KONG	21,896.12 Down 1,922.74 (-8.07%)
JAKARTA	2,258.5701 Down 227.309 (-9.14%)
TOKYO	12,669.87 Down 656.07 (-4.92%)
K. LUMPUR	1,439.49 Down 21.22 (-1.45%)
MANILA	2,978.41 Down 173.89 (-5.52%)
SINGAPORE	2,776.32 Down 140.83 (-4.83%)
SEOUL	1,589.19 Down 94.37 (-5.61%)
BANGKOK	740.35 Down 26.18 (-3.42%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	12,099.30 -59.91
NASDAQ	2,340.02 -6.88
S&P	1,325.19 -8.06

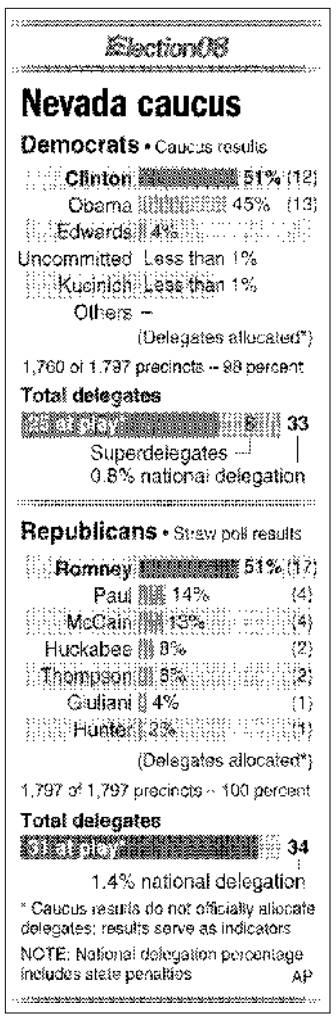
MONEY MARKET

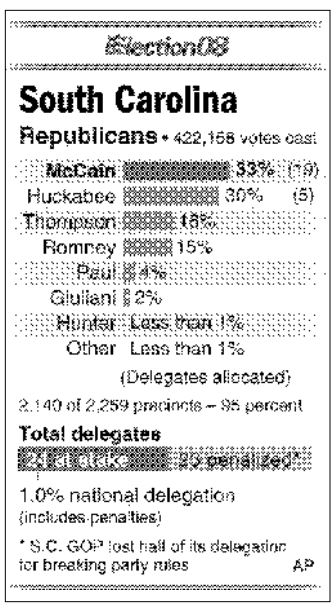
Australian Dollar	1.1673
British Pound	0.516
Canadian Dollar	1.0334
Chinese Renmbi	7.2343
Euro	0.6938
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8112
Indian Rupee	39.745
Indonesian Rupiah	9495
Japanese Yen	106.022
Malaysian Ringgit	3.303
New Zealand Dollar	1.347
Philippine Peso	41.46
Singapore Dollar	1.4522
South Korean Won	954.55
Swiss Franc	1.1107
Taiwan Dollar	32.49
Thailand Baht	31.03

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation





Clinton, Obama engage in bitter debate

AP

Democratic presidential hopefuls Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., left, and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., participate in a Democratic presidential debate in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Monday, Jan. 21, 2008.

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP)—Democratic presidential rivals Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama accused each other of repeatedly and deliberately distorting the truth for political gain Monday night in a highly personal, finger-wagging debate that ranged from the war in Iraq to Bill Clinton's role in the campaign.

Obama told the former first lady he was helping unemployed workers on the streets of Chicago when "you were a corporate lawyer sitting on the board at Wal-Mart."

Moments later, Clinton said that she was fighting against misguided Republican policies "when you were practicing law and representing your contributor ... in his slum landlord business in inner city Chicago."

Obama seemed particularly irritated at the former president, whom he accused in absentia of uttering a series of distortions to aid his wife's presidential effort.

"I'm here. He's not," she snapped.

"Well, I can't tell who I'm running against sometimes," Obama countered.

The two rivals, joined by former Sen. John Edwards, debated at close quarters five days before the South Carolina primary - and 15 days before the equivalent of a nationwide primary across 20 states that will go a long way toward settling the battle for the party's nomination.

Hillary Clinton was the national front-runner for months in the race, but Obama won the kickoff Iowa caucuses three weeks ago, knocking her off-stride. She recovered quickly, winning the New Hampshire primary in an upset, and on Saturday, won the popular vote in the Nevada caucuses while Obama won one more delegate than she.

The Democratic electorate in South Carolina is expected to be roughly 50 percent black, an evident advantage for Obama in a historic race that matches a black man against a woman.

Even in the superheated atmosphere of the primary, the statements and exchanges between Clinton and Obama were unusually acrimonious. The debate came as the two campaigns continued to complain about dirty politics and disenfranchisement of voters in last Saturday's Nevada caucuses.

Obama suggested the Clintons were both practicing the kind of political tactics that had alienated voters.

"There was a set of assertions made by Senator Clinton as well as her husband that are not factually accurate," Obama said. "I think that part of what people are looking for right now is someone who is going to solve problems and not resort to the same typical politics that we've seen in Washington."

Clinton countered: "I believe your record and what you say should matter."

Edwards, who badly trails his two rivals, tried to stay above the fray while pleading for equal time.

"Are there three people in this debate, not two?" he asked.

"We have got to understand, this is not about us personally. It's about what we are trying to do for this country," Edwards said to applause from the audience.

Hillary Clinton, who was close with the Walton family, served on the Wal-Mart board from 1986 to 1992. In 2006, her Senate campaign returned $5,000 to the company's political action committee while citing differences with company policies.

ACROSS THE NATION

Fire burns 16 buildings in Mass.; 1 hurt

LAWRENCE, Mass. (AP)—A huge blaze started in an empty downtown nightclub early Monday and spread quickly through 16 buildings, destroying homes and businesses and forcing residents to flee in their pajamas into the bitter night. One person suffered minor injuries. An ambulance crew on an unrelated call spotted the fire about 2:30 a.m., state Fire Marshal Stephen Coan said. The fire started in a nightclub that was being renovated and spread quickly on a stiff wind through the block that included early 1900s wood-framed buildings. Habitat for Humanity was rehabilitated three of the buildings. The club had no walls, and that "gave the fire an opportunity to take hold very quickly," Coan said.

Answers sought at plane collision site

CORONA, Calif. (AP)—Authorities were trying Monday to learn why two small planes collided over a row of businesses, dropping a macabre shower of debris and body parts and killing someone inside an auto dealership when one of the aircraft punctured the roof. All four people aboard the two aircraft also were killed in Sunday's crash, on a clear crisp afternoon that seemed ideal for flying. Family members of one of the victims told a television station he was a student pilot flying one of the planes. No one else was hurt, though wreckage fell on three car dealerships, all of which remained closed to customers as investigators combed through the debris in Corona, about 45 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

Tenn. man, 94, killed, has hand cut off

MORRISTOWN, Tenn. (AP)—A 94-year-old man was found fatally beaten early Monday in a thicket of bushes, his left hand cut off, and three people were arrested in what might have been a botched robbery, authorities said. Willie Lee Morgan, who was reported missing Saturday, "died a horrible death," Hamblen County Sheriff Esco Jarnigan said. Two butcher knives and a left hand were found in one of the suspects' cars. Darrell Nance, 22, was charged with murder and Jessica Lane, 23, was charged with accessory to murder. Brice Whaley, whose age was not immediately available, was charged as an accessory after the fact and abuse of a corpse.

Weapons cache found in Brooklyn home

NEW YORK (AP)—Investigators tried to determine Monday whether a man with a cache of pipe bombs and other weapons at his apartment was targeting synagogues and homes he had defaced in his Brooklyn neighborhood, a ranking police official said Monday. Officers went to Ivan Ivanov's apartment after he reported being shot on Sunday evening, police said. Investigators, who said the wound to his finger was self-inflicted, discovered what appeared to be a homemade bomb and several other devices and weapons. A police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is continuing, said Ivanov told police he planned to use the explosives on a fishing trip, detonating the devices underwater to bring the fish to the surface.

Thousands honor King at Ebenezer Baptist

ATLANTA (AP)—More than 2,000 people crowded Ebenezer Baptist Church on Monday to honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s commitment to peace and equality and note the importance of his legacy in this election year.

"He understood that life is not about self. Life is about service - and service to others," said Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle.

Former President Bill Clinton, Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin were among those attending the service.

King's birthday is Jan. 15, but the federal holiday bearing his name is observed on the third Monday in January. It has been a national holiday since 1986, but his birthday has been observed at Ebenezer Baptist - where King preached from 1960 until 1968 - every year since his assassination in Memphis, Tenn., at age 39 on April 4, 1968.

"Martin aimed high, acted with faith, dreamed miracles that inspired a nation. Can we act on King's legacy without dreaming? I think not," Franklin said. "King's legacy gives light to our hopes, permission to our aspirations and relevance to our dreams."

"He freed us all to fight the civil rights battle, to fight the poverty battle, to fight all these battles and do it together," Clinton said. "He made a place at the table for all of us."

Clinton also noted the diverse presidential race, which includes a Mormon, a black man and a Baptist preacher, as well as his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"Isn't this interesting? I mean, how cool is it? You know, we've got all these different people seeking the presidency," he said. "And guess what? It's all possible because of Martin Luther King's vision of the beloved community."

Franklin recently endorsed Democratic hopeful Barack Obama over Rodham Clinton.

"Georgia is on the mind of the next president of the United States," said the mayor.

White separatists protest in Jena, La.

JENA, La. (AP) -- About 50 white separatists protested the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday Monday in this tiny town, which was thrust into the spotlight months ago by 20,000 demonstrators who claimed prosecutors discriminated against blacks.

Police separated participants in the "pro-majority" rally organized by the Learned, Miss.-based Nationalist Movement from a racially mixed group of about 100 counter-demonstrators outside the LaSalle Parish Courthouse. There was no violence and one arrest, of a counter-demonstrator.

Chants of "No KKK" from the mostly college-age counter-demonstrators were met with a chant from the separatists that contained a racial epithet.

At one point, dozens of state police forced back about 10 people, dressed in New Black Panther uniforms, who had gathered around a podium where the separatist group's leader Richard Barrett was to speak.

One man who broke away from that group was arrested and booked with battery on a police officer and resisting arrest; authorities identified him as William Winchester Jr. of New Orleans and said he was a member of the New Black Panthers. Members of the group at the scene declined to comment.

Race relations in Jena (population about 2,800) have been in the news ever since six black teenagers were arrested in the beating of a white classmate at Jena High School in December 2006.

Asia

MASS PROMOTION
Newly-promoted Philippine National Police officers take their oaths during mass oath-taking and pinning of ranks ceremony at police headquarters at Camp Crame, Quezon city north of Manila Monday January 21, 2008. More than 20,000 police officers nationwide, representing 17-percent of the total police force, were promoted to various ranks in the biggest promotion ever accorded the entire police force.

Heavy snow blamed for 10 China deaths

BEIJING (AP)—Unusually heavy snowfall in central China has been blamed for at least 10 deaths and has stranded hundreds of thousands of people ahead of the peak Lunar New Year travel season, state media said Monday.

Frigid temperatures caused pipes to burst, leading to water shortages for thousands of residents, the Xinhua News Agency and newspapers reported. Power lines carrying electricity from the massive Three Gorges Dam to Shanghai snapped under a heavy accumulation of ice and snow, state broadcaster CCTV said.

Heavy snow damaged thousands of homes, and at least one person was crushed to death when a roof collapsed at a gas station, the reports said. Xinhua said three others were also killed by collapsed roofs, but gave no details about the other deaths.

Snow closed highways and forced the cancellation of scores of flights in the provinces of Hubei, Henan, Shandong, Jiangsu and Anhui, where snow in some areas was the heaviest in 17 years.

In Hubei alone, 300,000 people had their travels delayed as they began journeys home for the Lunar New Year, China's most popular time for family gatherings. This year's holiday starts Feb. 7 on the Western calendar, but many started traveling weeks earlier to avoid massive crowds that pack trains and buses. AP

Sri Lanka says 15 Tamil rebels killed

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Government soldiers attacked Tamil Tiger rebel bunkers across the front lines in Sri Lanka's embattled north Monday, triggering a battle that killed 15 guerrillas and two soldiers, the military said.

Backed by artillery and mortar fire, soldiers pushed into rebel-held territory in the northern Jaffna Peninsula and destroyed 24 rebel bunkers early Monday, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara.

He said the battle lasted for about on hour and killed 15 rebels and two soldiers. Nine soldiers were wounded, he said.

There was no immediate comment from the rebels, but a pro-rebel Web site reported that the insurgents beat back the advancing soldiers, killing three and wounding at least 15 others.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Militants kill 5 Pakistani soldiers, wound 7

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected pro-Taliban militants attacked a Pakistani army post near the Afghan border early Tuesday, killing five soldiers and wounding seven others, the military said. The troops retaliated during the attack on Ladha Fort, "causing heavy casualties" on the attackers, a military statement said.

Philippine forces capture Abu Sayyaf militant

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police and troops captured a suspected member of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group wanted in connection with the beheading of 10 marines in an ambush in the southern Philippines last year, officials said Monday. Aramil Sulayman, 29, was working as a pedicab driver when security officers arrested him Saturday in Datu Odin Sinsuat township in southern Shariff Kabunsuan province, national police chief Avelino Razon told reporters. A handcuffed Sulayman wearing an orange detainee shirt was presented to the media Monday but he was not allowed to talk. The government offered a US$12,240 bounty for the arrest of Sulayman.

Bus crash kills 27 in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) -- A bus plunged over the side of a road and flipped over, killing 27 passengers and injuring 10 others, state media said Monday. The bus skidded off the road near the town of Kyaik Hto on Sunday as it traveled from Yangon to the southern state of Mon, about a seven-hour journey along bad roads, the New Light of Myanmar reported.

Thousands march in RP to mark bridge massacre

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Several thousand farmers and left-wing activists marched through the Philippine capital Tuesday to mark the 1987 massacre by troops of 13 demonstrators who were seeking the fair distribution of farmland.

A phalanx of riot police and soldiers used barbed wire and concrete barriers Tuesday to blockade Mendiola, a historic Manila bridge, to prevent the farmers from getting close to the presidential palace, Malacanang.

Authorities warned last week that communist rebels and disgruntled soldiers could be planning to infiltrate rallies and provoke violence around the anniversary of the 2001 "people power" revolt, which passed without incident on Sunday.

Tuesday's rally was led by the left-wing Farmers' Movement of the Philippines, known as the KMP, which authorities say is linked to communist rebels.

World

Suicide bomber kills 18 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber apparently targeting a senior security official blew himself up inside a funeral tent Monday, killing 18 people in the latest of a series of deadly attacks chipping away at the notion of a calmer Iraq.

There was no claim of responsibility for Monday's bombing in Hajaj, a village about midway along the nearly 20 miles between Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit and the oil hub of Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad. But police said it bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida.

Witnesses said about 70 people were inside the tent when the attacker set off his explosives soon after entering.

Officials said the target appeared to be Ahmed Abdullah, deputy governor in charge of security for Salahuddin province, of which Tikrit is the capital. He escaped unharmed.

Abdullah was a relative of the man being honored at the funeral, Antar Mohammed Abed, a former bodyguard of Saddam's wife, Sajida Khairallah Tulfah.

Probe: Iraqi teen bomber sent by family

BAGHDAD (AP)—His father was a senior member of al-Qaida in Iraq. His mother promised him they would meet again in paradise.

Details emerging in the investigation into a teenage suicide bombing near Fallujah on Sunday suggest the boy was dispatched by his family on the mission and took advantage of tribal ties to pass through tight security—raising concerns about infiltration within Sunni groups now allied with U.S. forces against extremists.

It also points to concerns that al-Qaida and its backers are still committed to campaigns of revenge and intimidation against fellow Sunnis even as insurgents try to regroup after being driven from strongholds across central Iraq.

The 15-year-old attacker was carrying a box of candy at a gathering of tribal members to celebrate the recent release of a relative, Hadi Hussein, who had been let go after more than a week in U.S. custody, officials said. Hussein, his brother and four guards were killed in the blast.

The youth blew himself up in a reception area as Hussein was greeting well-wishers in the compound of Aeifan al-Issawi, a leading member of the Anbar Awakening Council—the first Sunni group to publicly turn against al-Qaida in Iraq. Al-Issawi said he believed he was the target, but the bomber may have become nervous and detonated his explosives before he arrived.

"This is not the first time that we have been targeted by our relatives who live in the same area around us," said al-Issawi.

The Issawis represent one of the largest tribes in the province, which stretches west of Baghdad to the borders of Syria, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. The desert expanse provided a vast safehaven for al-Qaida in Iraq until Sunni leaders became fed up with the group's brutal tactics and joined forces with the Americans against it.

France: New Iran resolution imminent

PARIS (AP) -- The U.N. Security Council's five permanent members and Germany are expected to agree Tuesday on a new resolution to pressure Iran over its nuclear program, a French diplomat said. But a U.S. official said differences over the issue remain.

The senior French diplomat, who briefed reporters Monday on condition that he not be identified by name, said an agreement was very close and should be finalized by the six nation's foreign ministers at a meeting in Berlin, Germany.

However, others were more cautious about what the talks could produce. Momentum for a third resolution has slowed since a U.S. intelligence assessment last month indicated Tehran had stopped active work on a nuclear weapons program in 2003.

A senior US official said Monday that the six nations had made some progress in negotiating a new resolution in a flurry of weekend conference calls but that "substantial" differences still existed.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the ongoing talks, told reporters it was not clear if agreement could be reached at Tuesday's meeting.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel to ease Gaza blockade for a day

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israel said Monday it will ease a blockade of Gaza imposed in retaliation for militant rocket attacks, allowing some food and fuel in for one day. The announcement followed a U.N. warning that international food aid to the impoverished territory may have to be suspended by the weekend. The closure imposed after a spike in rocket attacks last week cut off fuel supplies. On Sunday, Gaza's Hamas rulers shut the strip's power plant, leaving one-third of the 1.5 million people without electricity. Gas stations and many bakeries closed, and health officials warned of an impending crisis in hospitals running low on generator fuel.

Key drug trafficker nabbed in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's army on Monday captured a top lieutenant of the powerful Sinaloa cartel who allegedly commanded squads of hit men and organized drug shipments north, officials said. Alfredo Beltran Leyva was arrested in the northwestern city of Culiacan in Sinaloa state, home to the cartel, with two suitcases containing $900,000, an assault rifle, a luxury SUV and 11 expensive watches, the army said. Army Gen. Luis Arturo Oliver Cen said Beltran Leyva commanded two groups of hit men for the cartel, whose reach extends from the northwestern state of Sonora to the southern state of Oaxaca.

Italian government in risk of collapsing

ROME (AP)—A key ally of Premier Romano Prodi pulled his party from the Cabinet on Monday amid a corruption scandal, sending the center-left governing coalition scrambling to keep the administration from falling. Prodi, who presided at strategy talks Monday night, planned to address Parliament about the crisis Tuesday. Taking a break from the talks, a senator in Prodi's coalition hinted to reporters that the premier could call for a confidence vote by lawmakers.

Cuba's new parliament could retire Fidel

HAVANA (AP)—The new parliament chosen by Cuban voters could ultimately send ailing 81-year-old Fidel Castro into permanent retirement. As results came in Monday, there was no doubt that voters in Castro's home district had re-elected him to the National Assembly, where he must hold a seat to be eligible to stay on as chief of the island's governing body, the Council of State. But it was less clear whether the assembly would choose Castro as council president when it convenes for the first time on Feb. 24, or whether the bearded revolutionary would step down after nearly 50 years at Cuba's helm. Castro provisionally ceded power to his younger brother Raul in July 2006 following emergency intestinal surgeries, but remained head of the Council of State.

Campus Life

Studying, and learning, in *China*

By SUSAN SPANO
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEIJING—An old Chinese proverb sums up the three months I spent studying Mandarin in Beijing: To suffer and learn, one pays a high price, but a fool can't learn any other way.

The famously difficult Chinese language could make a fool out of anyone. Standard Chinese, known as Mandarin or Putonghua, has tens of thousands of characters, many taking more than 20 strokes to write, and a transliteration system called Pinyin that expresses Chinese words in the 26-letter Latin alphabet of English.

Further complicating matters, Mandarin is a tonal language, meaning that the same Pinyin word has four definitions depending on the intonation.

More than 20 percent of the world's population speaks Chinese. But while studying it last year at Beijing Language and Culture University, I often wondered how Chinese children ever learn it. Generally, I felt like a child, or at least deeply humbled. But on those rare occasions when I could read a sign or tell a cashier I didn't have any small change, I felt like Alexander the Great at the gates of Persepolis.

You don't learn Chinese in three months—or at least I didn't. Basic Chinese at the Monterey, Calif.-based Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center is a 63-week course. But spending a semester in the Beijing Language and Culture University's short-term, accelerated program struck me as a good way of getting to know Beijing, which had proved elusive on my first visit 10 years ago, chiefly because I couldn't communicate.

BLCU specializes in teaching Chinese to overseas students. But there were many other schools in Beijing to consider because the demand for Chinese language training is growing exponentially. The Chinese Ministry of Education estimates that 40 million people around the world studied the language last year. Moreover, China's popularity among American exchange students increased 90 percent between 2002 and 2004, and 35 percent more in 2007.

A Chinese professor at my alma mater, Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, recommended BLCU, a state-approved institution founded in 1962 in the leafy university district of Beijing. It was the right choice for me, as it turned out. It's near the academic powerhouses of Peking and Tsinghua universities, and it is well-known to taxi drivers.

The school teaches several foreign languages and has a student body of about 15,000, one-third from China studying to become Chinese teachers or preparing for careers that require a foreign language. Like American college students, Chinese undergraduates at BLCU play sports, party and call home to ask their parents for money.

The rest of the students come from more than 120 countries and generally pay their own way. They have to hit the books hard just to keep up in accelerated Chinese class, where the approach is known as stuffed duck.

When I arrived here, I thought I would enjoy class from 8 a.m. to noon every weekday morning and spend the rest of the time tooling around Beijing.

I could have found an apartment off campus, but that required a residence permit from the local police. So I got a single in a dorm, figuring that living like an undergraduate at 52 would be the worst indignity I would have to endure.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
One-third of the 15,000 students on the Haidian District campus are from China and plan to teach Chinese or to have a career that requires a foreign language.

I had it all backward.

The campus, which occupies most of a city block close to the heart of Haidian District around Wudaokou subway station, is an Oriental ivory tower, surrounded by walls with gates locked at midnight (although pub crawlers are admitted after that with a little pleading). It was the dreary end of a Beijing winter when I arrived, so all I noticed at first was that BLCU had everything a student could need: ATMs, a library, bookstore, post office, conference center, market, hair salon, copy shop and gymnasium with Olympic-sized pool.

Besides the cafeteria, which serves hot Chinese meals on penitentiary-style aluminum trays for about 25 cents an entree, there are several small restaurants specializing in foreign cuisine (although my taste buds told me that everything came from the same kitchen). I favored the LaVita Cafe, where I studied in the morning and drank a lot of coffee. The Muslim restaurant near the basketball courts was by far the most popular, chiefly for its delicious flat bread cooked on a round ceramic oven by a big, vicious-looking baker wielding a long wooden paddle.

Scattered around campus are 17 dorms, a few new high-rises but mostly two-story, gray brick buildings, vintage 1980 or so, inevitably fronted by a parking lot full of dilapidated bicycles. My dorm was No. 13, near the west gate, with a front desk manned around the clock by staff members who knew but mostly refused to speak English.

My room, which cost about $400 a month, was on the second floor and far more comfortable than I had expected.

Its walls bore tape marks from previous occupants. It had a mini-refrigerator, Internet hookup (for $20 more a month), a hard single bed, a card-operated telephone and a television. (The TV showed only state-sponsored CCTV news in English and a Korean-language station that aired reruns of "CSI: Miami" nightly, with Korean subtitles.) The private bath had an open shower dispensing water hot enough to make instant noodles.

About once a week, a washer in the faucet handle broke so I couldn't stop hot water from gushing out of the shower. By the time the plumber came, the whole room was a steam-filled sauna. And although the heating system was powerful, it was centrally operated. When I started to sweat, I asked a floor attendant how to turn it off. She rolled her eyes and, with the disdain of an upperclassman, said, "Open a window."

The academic semester began with a placement test, given in a Spartan classroom to about a dozen primarily English-speaking students. Students were grouped according to their mother tongue, with young Korean speakers dominating by a wide margin.

Instruction at BLCU starts in the students' first languages, progressing after about a month to an all-Chinese learning environment.

I sharpened my pencils and prepared for the worst. But first, the teacher asked those of us who had never studied Chinese to raise our hands and said, "You know nothing. You can go."

So I joined the most ignorant class in BLCU's accelerated Chinese program, and my status never changed.

A month into the semester, I did so poorly on a practice test that it finally dawned on me I needed to study at least four hours a day to enjoy and benefit from class. I did all the exercises in my textbooks and made flashcards with Chinese characters on one side and Pinyin on the other.

The only thing I didn't do to get ahead was to hook up with a language partner, although native English speakers like me were in such hot demand that Chinese students occasionally tailed me across campus working up the courage to suggest we team up for English-Mandarin conversation.

Soon I was doing better, and my classmates noticed.

They were a wonderfully mixed and motley crew from all the corners of the world where people are realizing that their futures might be tied up with China.

I spoke French with Joelle, a tall young woman born in the Republic of Congo and educated in Poland. Roger, from Brazil, planned to study with a Chinese martial-arts master.

Michael was an E.M. Forster-esque Englishman, between jobs in Asia. Tatyana came from Vladivostok and spoke only Russian, so she used a dictionary to translate the teacher's English into her mother tongue.

Mohammed, from Egypt, had to contradict people who assumed he had a harem, and we all thought that Shinji, a Korean with a sociology degree from the University of Chicago and a build like Superman, worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.

There were only two other students from the U.S., one a Chinese American girl who wasn't sure whether she wanted to be a writer or a dentist, the other a thirtysomething New Yorker whose excellence at Chinese quickly made him the class favorite. When our teacher struggled to explain the nuances of Mandarin in English, Jacob stepped in to assist her.

We were given three textbooks on Chinese grammar, listening and speaking. Three teachers—"laoshi" in Mandarin—rotated with them. In China, the teaching profession is highly revered. Anyway, I revered my instructors, especially Wu laoshi, a thin, bespectacled woman in her 30s with an unfulfilled yen to see the world.

On a bench near my dorm, she prepped me for my role as laoshi in a skit my class reluctantly performed at the spring talent show. Later, we commiserated about some of my fellow students' perpetual tardiness and obvious failure to prepare.

I told Wu laoshi not to worry, "bie zhaoij" in Chinese. Our class was full of oddballs.

She didn't know that word, but when I explained, I got a good laugh out of her.

BLCU cleared out during Golden Week, the big spring holiday in China. I went to Tibet but got back in time to prepare for midterms. We were graded on a 100-point scale, with no curve.

I came very close to flunking.

Never mind. Winter yielded to spring, with translucent skies and lilacs by the post office.

Every morning I woke up to the rubber-soled footfall of the security force running in a phalanx past my window. I grabbed coffee at LaVita and went to class. My attendance was sterling even if my grades were not.

Every afternoon, I studied hard and even learned a little Mandarin I'll probably forget.

The Beijing Language and Culture University is in the Haidian District near Peking and Tsinghua universities.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Life & Style

New Zealand says farewell to Hillary

By RAY LILLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—Sherpas laid prayer scarves on Sir Edmund Hillary's coffin as thousands across New Zealand bid farewell to the Mount Everest conqueror Tuesday. An honor guard held ice axes aloft as his casket was carried through their lines.

About 500 New Zealand and international dignitaries joined the Hillary family at a state funeral in St. Mary's Anglican Church in this northern city, while thousands gathered at big screen venues in cities nationwide to pay respects to Hillary.

The enormously popular adventurer died of a heart attack on Jan. 11 at the age of 88.

"In reality he was a colossus, he was our hero, he brought fame to our country ... but above all we loved Sir Ed for what he represented—a determination to succeed against the odds," Prime Minister Helen Clark told mourners.

As the service began, five Sherpas, including one woman, laid traditional prayer scarves on the coffin for Hillary, who had spent more than 40 years working to aid Nepal's development.

The ice ax used by Hillary on his May 29, 1953, conquest of Mt. Everest with mountain guide Tenzing Norgay also lay atop the flag-draped coffin.

One of the 20th century's greatest adventurers, Hillary later made the first motorized overland trip to the South Pole, led a jet boat expedition from "sea to sky" up India's Ganges River and joined an expedition to the North Pole.

The former beekeeper became a humanitarian, building schools, hospitals, health clinics and other facilities in Nepal to aid the Sherpa people of Nepal's mountain region near Everest.

His son, mountaineer Peter Hillary, who has twice climbed Everest, said his father "was a real people's hero" and that helping the Nepali people "really was the great calling of my father's life."

AP

Nepalese representatives lay scarves on the casket of Sir Edmund Hillary at his state funeral at St. Mary's Church in Auckland, New Zealand, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008.

AP

Sir Edmund Hillary's casket is carried through a guard of honor from Alpine club members, from St. Mary's Church, following his state funeral service in Auckland, New Zealand, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008.

Ang Rita Sherpa, head of Hillary's Himalayan Trust aid group in Nepal, said he was "an idol and inspiration for everybody" who had transformed the lives of two generations of Sherpas.

There were now 6,500 students in 63 schools, as well as two hospitals, a dozen health clinics, a million trees planted, safe drinking water systems, bridges and miles of new trails - a direct result of Hillary's work, he told the service.

Norbu Tenzing Norgay, the eldest son of Hillary's climbing partner, said Hillary's "loved Sherpa people" had "spiraled into mourning only comparable to the loss of a parent" when they heard of his death and had "prayed for his soul and reincarnation."

"Among Sherpas he was revered" as he "had opened Sherpas' eyes to a world of possibilities." His passing meant they should continue and expand his work in the region, Norbu Tenzing added.

In the congregation were dignitaries and diplomats from many nations, including the U.K., U.S., Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, Nepal, Russia and Tonga.

The four surviving members of the original 14-strong 1953 Mt. Everest climbing team attended the funeral service, which ended with the singing of the National Anthem. New Zealand Alpine Club members formed an honor guard outside the church, holding ice axes aloft as the casket was carried through their lines.

At the same time, mountain guides and others gathered at the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Center at Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest peak which Hillary first climbed in 1946, to pay respects.

In Antarctica, workers at the New Zealand and U.S. science bases watched the funeral beamed on a special satellite feed.

Students from Sir Edmund Hillary College performed a Maori war dance of farewell near the church before the cortege moved away for a private cremation service. The cortege traveled through the city and past the Hillary family home as thousands of people stood in the streets, some clapping.

Hillary had asked that his ashes be scattered on Auckland's Waitemata Harbor, perhaps to wash ashore "to complete the cycle of my life."

Cruise's scary movie: Upping the ante on batty

By NEELY TUCKER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Mom! Tom Cruise is scaring people again!

It's on the Internet, this promotional video he did for the Church of Scientology. I guess it's out there because of this new book by Andrew Morton, "Tom Cruise: An Unauthorized Biography." It was on several sites, but then disappeared on some and reappeared on others. Gawker.com posted a cease-and-desist letter it said was sent by attorneys representing the church. The letter, according to the site, says the "copyrighted" video was stolen from the church, and demands that it be taken down.

In the video, still posted Thursday on Gawker, Cruise is wearing a black turtleneck and talking to an interviewer just off camera—for nine minutes!—about how he wants to help and how he's met with "leaders" all over the world and how they want his help, and how Scientology is "wild and woolly" and how he doesn't like people sitting on the sidelines of life, and how he's "canceled that in my area." And he keeps laughing really LOUD and it really doesn't make any sense and he keeps showing all his teeth and barely blinking and I got really scared but I watched the whole thing even if I didn't want to, and now I can't sleep without the light on.

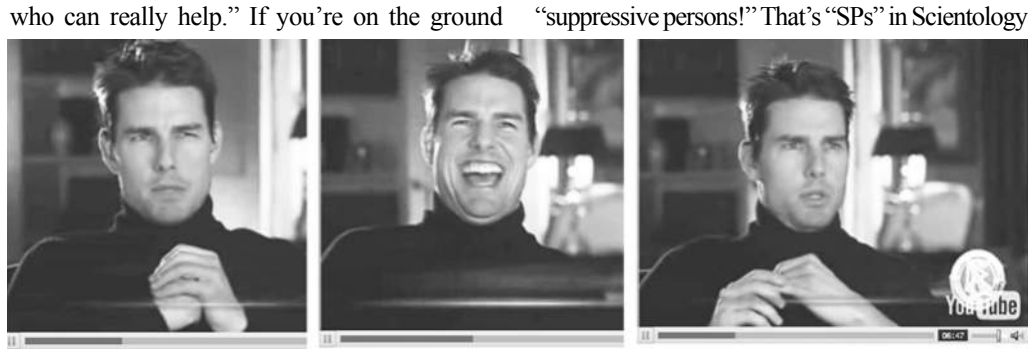
"We are the authorities on getting people off drugs, we are the authorities on the mind, we are the authorities on improving conditions," he says, while "Mission: Impossible"-type music be-bebops in the background. "We can rehabilitate criminals. ... We can bring peace and unite cultures."

Yeah, but what if he really means it? Like that part when he talks about driving by a traffic accident, and he knows he has to stop, because as a Scientologist, "you know you're the only one who can really help." If you're on the ground there beside the highway, your car totaled, a crowd gathering around, and nobody calls 911 but some guy hollers, "Is Tom Cruise here? Tom?" And what if he is?

He talks a lot about Scientology in stern terms—"You're on board or you're not on board"—and says: "Now is the time, OK? Being a Scientologist, people are turning to you, and you better know it. You better know it."

It's not really clear what "it" is, Mom, but we're guessing it has to do with the basics of Scientology.

He doesn't stop there! He starts talking about "suppressive persons!" That's "SPs" in Scientology terminology. These are people who attack or don't like Scientology. Boy, he really doesn't like them.



THE WASHINGTON POST

There's plenty of expressions, just little comprehension in this Church of Scientology video of Tom Cruise, now playing on the Internet.

"They don't come up to me and do that. They won't do it to me. Not to my face. Not anywhere in my vicinity ... where they feel they can be ... confronted. They're just not doing it."

But doing what?

We just don't know.

In the clip, which cuts repeatedly to different parts of the same interview, we just don't know almost anything. He speaks in subjects and verbs and almost no direct objects. We don't know who or what he is referring to when he says, his voice dropping to a whisper:

"They said, `So like, have you met an SP?' " Then he laughs this sort of loud, intense thing, his mouth open, clapping his hands together. "I looked at them, and you know and I thought, what a beautiful thing, because maybe one day it'll be like that. You know what I'm saying? Maybe one day it'll be like that. Wow, SPs, they'll just read about those in history books."

Yeah, yeah. I know. It's just a movie star. It's just something like in the picture show. Can I have a drink of water? I'll try to forget it. I'll try to forget I ever saw it.

But could you leave the light on?

Time for Oscar noms, strike or no strike

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Hollywood's big question—which movies will compete at the Academy Awards?—is about to be answered.

But a bigger, more vexing one is still casting a shadow over Tuesday's nominations announcement: Will there be any kind of recognizable Oscars show if the writers strike continues?

Rolling out the list of nominees normally sets the stage for a month of hugs and kisses leading up to the Oscars on Feb. 24 as Hollywood's elite congratulate themselves on a job well done. But as writers shut down the town's biggest parties to force management back to the negotiating table, awards shows have become the latest casualties.

One needed only to have tuned into the rushed and tepid Golden Globes "ceremony" to realize that the Oscars could be in trouble, too. But like with the Globes, there are awards to hand out, strike or no strike.

In the acting categories, potential nominees include past Oscar winners Cate Blanchett for "I'm Not There" and possibly "Elizabeth: The Golden Age"; George Clooney for "Michael Clayton"; Angelina Jolie for "A Mighty Heart"; Julie Christie for "Away From Her"; Jodie Foster for "The Brave One"; Daniel Day-Lewis for "There Will Be Blood"; and Julia Roberts and Philip Seymour Hoffman for "Charlie Wilson's War."

Actress Cate Blanchett poses with the Oscar she won for best supporting actress for her work in "The Aviator" at the 77th Academy Awards in this Sunday, Feb. 27, 2005 file photo, in Los Angeles.
AP

Among other contenders are Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter for "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"; Javier Bardem for "No Country for Old Men"; and some relative newcomers, Marion Cotillard for "La Vie En Rose," Ellen Page for "Juno" and Nikki Blonsky for "Hairspray."

No clear favorite has emerged in the best-picture category, whose nominees might include "There Will Be Blood," "No Country for Old Men," "Juno" and "Sweeney Todd" along with "Atonement," "American Gangster" and "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly."

A lot of crossed fingers will accompany the adulation this Oscar season, which is jeopardized by the same dispute that already snuffed the Golden Globes.

On strike since Nov. 5, the Writers Guild of America refused to let its members work on the Globes, which prompted stars to steer clear of the show in solidarity. Globe organizers were forced to scrap their glitzy telecast, instead announcing winners in a swift, humdrum news conference, without anyone on hand to accept their prizes.

Guild leaders have said that if the strike continues, they will not allow writers to work on the Oscars, either, which might leave nominees and other celebrities forced to choose between attending the biggest night in show business or staying home to avoid crossing picket lines.

Oscar organizers insist their show will go on, with or without the writers.

A glimmer of hope arose late last week as the Directors Guild of America reached a deal with producers for a new contract. Many in Hollywood are counting on that deal to help resuscitate negotiations between writers and producers, who walked away from the table Dec. 7, and sources say informal talks may resume this week.

If the two sides settle their differences in time for the Oscars, the ceremony would become a dual celebration, honoring the best in Hollywood from the previous year and marking an end to a season of labor discontent that idled TV shows, delayed some movies and threw thousands of production workers into unemployment.

Sutherland out of jail after 48 days

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Kiefer Sutherland was released from jail early Monday after serving 48 days on a drunken driving charge, police said.

The actor was ushered out a back door and into a waiting car at 12:05 a.m. to avoid the media near the Glendale jail's main entrance, Officer John Balian said.

"It was a joint decision between him and our police department personnel that it would be better if he exited through the back," Balian said.

Sutherland spent most of his jail sentence by himself, interacting with fellow prisoners only when he was on the way to the laundry room where he worked cleaning sheets, pillowcases and blankets, Balian said.

The star of Fox television's "24" also had a cell to himself and ate alone, he said.

Officials rejected several requests from strangers who asked to visit Sutherland during his sentence.

"A lot of people came in to see him off the street: nutritionists, psychics, just random people who thought they could walk up and see him," Balian said. "That just wasn't going to happen."

Prisoners are only allowed to receive visitors already named on a list, he said.

Sutherland pleaded no contest in October to driving with a blood-alcohol level above the legal limit of 0.08 percent. He was sentenced to 30 days, as well as 18 days for violating probation stemming from a 2004 drunken-driving arrest.

ABC leads nominees for GLAAD awards

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) -- For the second straight year, ABC led nominees for awards from an organization that monitors depictions of gays and lesbians in the media.

The network landed nine nominations from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, while CBS garnered three nods, NBC two and Fox two.

ABC's nominated shows include "Brothers & Sisters," "Ugly Betty" and "Desperate Housewives." Among cable networks, Logo received five nominations, CNN four, Bravo three and ABC Family two.

Nominees for feature film in wide release include Julie Taymor's Beatles musical "Across the Universe," the fantasy "Stardust" and "The Jane Austen Book Club."

Special prizes will go to singers Rufus Wainwright and Janet Jackson, MTV Networks president of entertainment Brian Graden, "My So-Called Life" actor Wilson Cruz, activist David Mixner and "The L Word" creator Ilene Chaiken.

The 19th annual GLAAD Media Awards - with 172 nominees in 40 categories - are split into four ceremonies, held in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and southern Florida in March, April and May.

"This year's extraordinary nominees exemplify the important strides we have made as a community toward creating a truly inclusive society," GLAAD President Neil Giuliano said in a statement.

The organization noted that transgender issues were addressed in numerous news reports and documentaries as well as in the TV shows "All My Children," "Cold Case" and "Dirty Sexy Money."

The nominees were announced Sunday night during the Sundance Film Festival.

Sammy Davis Jr. widow sues over legacy

DALLAS (AP)—The widow of Sammy Davis Jr. is suing two former business partners over the rights to the Rat Pack entertainer's life story and management of his legacy.

Altovise Davis says in a lawsuit filed in federal court that the two men exaggerated their show-business credentials and defrauded her into signing away some rights to her husband's estate.

The entertainer—a fixture in Las Vegas with fellow Rat Pack members Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Joey Bishop—died of throat cancer in 1990 at age 64. He owed more than $5 million to the IRS, forcing his widow to auction many of his personal belongings.

Altovise Davis says she gave her intellectual rights to Sammy Davis Jr. Enterprises Inc., formed in 2004 by Barrett LaRoda and Anthony Francis, in return for a one-third share in the business.

She alleges the men hid the company's financial records from her.

AP
American entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. poses in this Jan. 21, 1964 file photo.

Things came to a head, according to the lawsuit, during negotiations with a studio that wanted to make a biopic about Davis. The movie was to be partly based on two books—"Yes I Can" and "Why Me?"—that Davis wrote with the help of friends Judy and Burt Boyar. Altovise Davis and the Boyars held copyright interest in the books.

According to the lawsuit, LaRoda and Francis killed the movie negotiations by demanding a "substantial" fee and credit as executive producers.

The Boyars company, Dallas-based Boyar Investments LLC, joined Altovise Davis in suing the men. The lawsuit was filed last month in state court but was moved to federal court in Dallas because of copyright issues. Altovise Davis is seeking unspecified monetary and punitive damages.

In an e-mail to The Associated Press, LaRoda said he was trying only to get Mrs. Davis more money from the movie. Davis is "like a mother to me" but is being manipulated by Burt Boyar, LaRoda said.

"I think the movie should be made ... and 'Yes I Can' is a great source material," LaRoda told the AP. "The sad thing here is the tarnishing" of Sammy Davis' image.

Britney Spears attends deposition

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears showed up.

The pop star went to a deposition Monday in her dispute with ex-husband Kevin Federline over the custody of their two boys, according to published reports.

Spears drove to the office of Federline's attorney, Mark Vincent Kaplan, with a friend and was seen leaving more than two hours later, People.com and TMZ.com reported.

Calls to Kaplan's office Monday were not answered, and a phone message left with Spears' lawyer, Tara Scott, was not immediately returned.

Spears has had trouble making recent legal dates. On Dec. 12, she called in sick for a court-ordered deposition, then arrived late at Kaplan's office on its rescheduled date, Jan. 3. That night, she was taken to a hospital after a standoff in her home when she refused to return the children to Federline's bodyguard following a visit.

Spears didn't attend a court hearing Jan. 14 in which a court commissioner decided to keep in effect an order suspending her right to visit Jayden James, 1, and Sean Preston, 2.

Spears went to the courthouse briefly but never went inside, and she left amid a swarm of paparazzi.

She will get another chance Feb. 19 to persuade the court to restore her visitation rights.

AP

In this Sept. 1, 2007 file photo, Britney Spears arrives for the opening party of a nightclub in Las Vegas.

Dr. Phil isn't apologizing over Spears

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Dr. Phil" McGraw said Monday on his syndicated talk show that he isn't sorry for trying to help Britney Spears while she was hospitalized after a standoff in which she refused to return her two young sons to her ex-husband's bodyguard.

McGraw said he had planned to do a show on Spears' troubles before she was hospitalized Jan 3. Furthermore, he said Spears' mother, Lynne, had planned to participate.

He said they never intended to have Spears on the show, and they certainly never discussed staging an intervention with Spears.

He said he does not apologize for reaching out to a friend, and has been friends with the Spears family since 2006.

Lou Taylor, a business manager for Spears' mother and the pop star's younger sister, Jamie Lynn, appeared on NBC's "Today" show Jan. 9 and said McGraw had betrayed the family's trust by talking to the media about Spears' mental health after showing up at the 26-year-old pop star's room at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles for a visit.

McGraw acknowledged Monday that he released a statement to the media about meeting with Spears to quell any rumors. He said he never disclosed what happened in that meeting, nor will he ever.

Taylor said the syndicated TV psychologist broached the idea of the show to Spears' handlers, who eventually decided that such a show would be "detrimental" to the family.

Mental health professionals also have criticized McGraw, saying he went too far by showing up at Spears' hospital room as she was about to be discharged.

Spears was hospitalized after a child custody dispute with ex-husband Kevin Federline resulted in an hours-long standoff with police. A court commissioner later gave sole physical and legal custody of 1-year-old Jayden James and 2-year-old Sean Preston to Federline.

Oliver Stone looks to direct 'Bush'

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Oliver Stone is ready to put the life of George W. Bush on the big screen.

The Oscar-winning director has been quietly shopping a script for "Bush" - a film focusing on the life and presidency of George W. Bush, according to Daily Variety.

Stone, an outspoken critic of the Bush administration's invasion of Iraq, told the trade publication he's not looking to make an anti-Bush polemic. He said he wants "a fair, true portrait of the man. How did Bush go from being an alcoholic bum to the most powerful figure in the world?"

A phone message left by The Associated Press at Stone's office Monday was not immediately returned.

Stone told Daily Variety that "Bush" is "a behind-the-scenes approach, similar to 'Nixon,' to give a sense of what it's like to be in his skin." It will "contain surprises for Bush supporters and his detractors," he said.

The script was written by Stone's "Wall Street" co-writer Stanley Weiser. It would be produced by Moritz Borman and Jon Kilik, who worked with Stone on "Alexander." Borman said Weiser's script was finished before the Writers Guild of America strike and was ready to shoot.

Stone said his pick for the title role is Josh Brolin, who has drawn praise for his recent work in "No Country for Old Men" and "American Gangster."

If financing can be secured, the film could start production by April, according to Daily Variety.

Stone won best director Oscars for "Born on the Fourth of July" and "Platoon." He won a screenwriting Oscar for "Midnight Express."

Elle Fanning stars in 'Wonderland'

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Elle Fanning follows in her older sister Dakota's precocious footsteps with a star turn in the film "Phoebe in Wonderland."

In the movie, which had its world premiere over the weekend at the Sundance Film Festival, Fanning's character sees a therapist and says things like, "Are you always supposed to feel hope?"

The 9-year-old plays Phoebe Lichten, an insular and imaginative girl who signs up to play the lead in her school's performance of "Alice in Wonderland." At one point, she envisions her therapist as Humpty Dumpty sitting on a wall, and calls out to him, "I need help!"

The film features strong performances by Felicity Huffman and Bill Pullman as Lichten's parents, and Patricia Clarkson as her quirky drama teacher Mrs. Rodgers.

Fanning spoke after the premiere about getting in character for a key scene in which she breaks into tears in Huffman's arms. Writer-director Daniel Barnz said Fanning told the crew not to be offended if she wasn't friendly on the day the scene was shot.

"I was just more quieter, then after the scene ... I was all energized up," Fanning said. "After being quiet all day, I was just laughing and more normal."

Young stay-at-home mother's fuse gets shorter every day

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have four beautiful children. I have tried to raise them to appreciate the importance of family and understand that love is the most important thing of all.

My problem is my youngest daughter, "Samantha," who is 24. She's divorced with two boys, ages 5 and 15 months. She lives at home with me and my husband, which is not an issue. What does bother me is that she flies off the handle and yells and screams about anything and everything. She doesn't get that trait from me. She learned it from her father.

I know my daughter loves her children, but she is showing less and less patience with them. I have tried to help her overcome this problem, but so far nothing has worked. She is hollering more than ever. I think she functions better when she is working full time, rather than being a stay-at-home mom.

My husband and I worry about Samantha and the kids, but we would also like to have more harmony, peace and quiet around here. I realize that counseling might help her, but we can't afford it. Have you any other options?

—NEVADA MOM AND GRANDMA

DEAR NEVADA MOM: While it may be unrealistic for you to expect peace and quiet in a household with two active boys under the age of 6, your daughter is only fueling the fire by losing control and yelling and screaming.

Children learn by example, and my concern is that she may be perpetuating the same destructive habits she learned from her father and teaching her sons unacceptable behavior.

Your daughter may be frustrated because she feels trapped in her role as a stay-at-home mother and could possibly benefit by allowing herself some time for herself. As I say in my booklet, "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It," "Having one's freedom of movement restricted, or feeling 'tied down,' often makes one angry." The first step in dealing with one's anger is to recognize that you are getting angry BEFORE you lose control and express the anger inappropriately.

My anger booklet can be ordered by sending a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. If your daughter is willing to read my booklet, it should give her some helpful insight into the cause of her anger and some tools for coping with it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We are throwing our dad a surprise party for his 60th birthday. Instead of gifts for our dad, my sisters and I would like to have the gifts go to charity. How would we word that on the invitations?

—MARGARET IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR MARGARET: Include in the invitation a note that says: "The gift of your presence will be present enough for Dad. However, if you feel you must give something, then a donation to ( ) in his honor would be appreciated."

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Scott Hamilton and wife welcome 2nd son

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scott Hamilton is now a father of two.

The figure skater's wife, Tracie, gave birth to the couple's second son, Maxx, Monday in Nashville, Tenn., said his publicist Michael Sterling, who is based in Los Angeles. "According to Scott, mother and child are doing very well," Sterling said. The couple's first child, Aidan, is 4. Hamilton, 49, is a 1984 Olympic gold medalist, a four-time U.S. national champion and four-time world champion. He is now a skating show producer and television commentator.

Christian Brando laid up with pneumonia

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Christian Brando has been hospitalized with pneumonia, his lawyer said Monday. Brando, the son of the late actor Marlon Brando, went to Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center about 10 days ago with what he thought was the flu, said attorney Benjamin Brin. Instead, pneumonia was diagnosed, Brin said. "The prognosis is for a complete recovery. He's going to be OK," Brin said. Christian Brando pleaded guilty in 1990 to manslaughter for killing his sister's boyfriend and spent six years in prison.

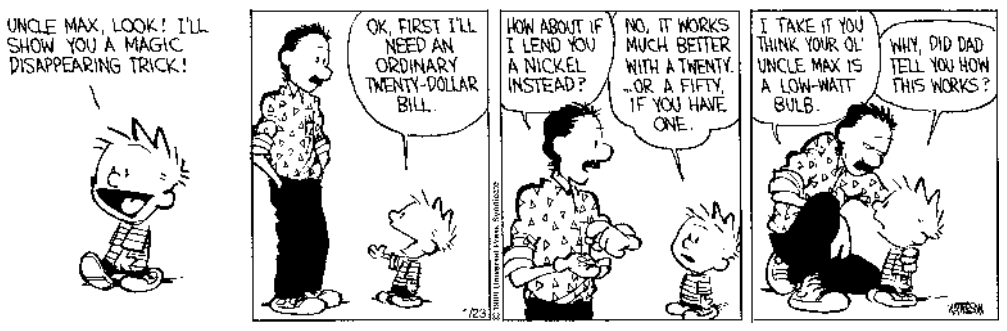
A boy for Chris Noth and girlfriend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's a little boy for Mr. Big. "Sex and the City" and "Law & Order" star Chris Noth and longtime girlfriend Tara Wilson have welcomed a son, People magazine reported on its web site Sunday. Orion Christopher Noth was born in Los Angeles on Friday, and weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces, a representative for the actor told the magazine. Mother and baby are reportedly doing well. Noth, 53, starred as Mr. Big in the HBO hit for four years and is currently filming the "Sex and the City" movie. Most recently he has been seen as Det. Mike Logan in "Law & Order: Criminal Intent." Noth will appear this year in the independent drama "Frame of Mind," in which Wilson has a supporting role.

Pastimes

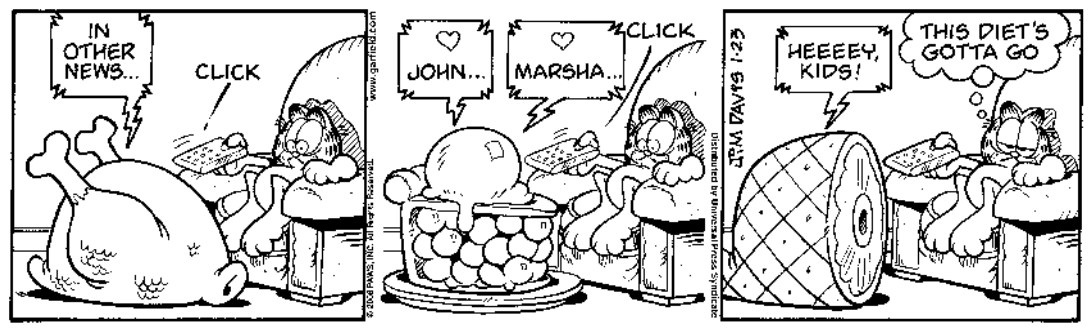
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


UNCLE MAX, LOOK! I'LL SHOW YOU A MAGIC DISAPPEARING TRICK!
OK, FIRST I'LL NEED AN ORDINARY TWENTY-DOLLAR BILL.
HOW ABOUT IF I LEND YOU A NICKEL INSTEAD?
NO, IT WORKS MUCH BETTER WITH A TWENTY. ...OR A FIFTY, IF YOU HAVE ONE.
I TAKE IT YOU THINK YOUR OL' UNCLE MAX IS A LOW-WATT BULB.
WHY, DID DAD TELL YOU HOW THIS WORKS?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



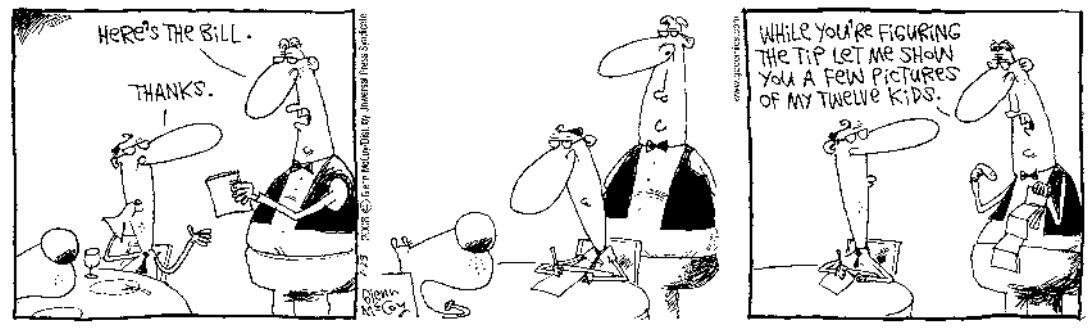
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
MY VAN'S MAKING A FUNKY PERCUSSION-LIKE SOUND.
IT GOES
RAT-A-TAP-TAP RAT-A-TAP-TAP RAT-A-TAP RAT-A-TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP RAT-A-TAP
Hobbes
HILLTOP AUTOMOTIVE
IT'S THE BRAKE DRUMS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

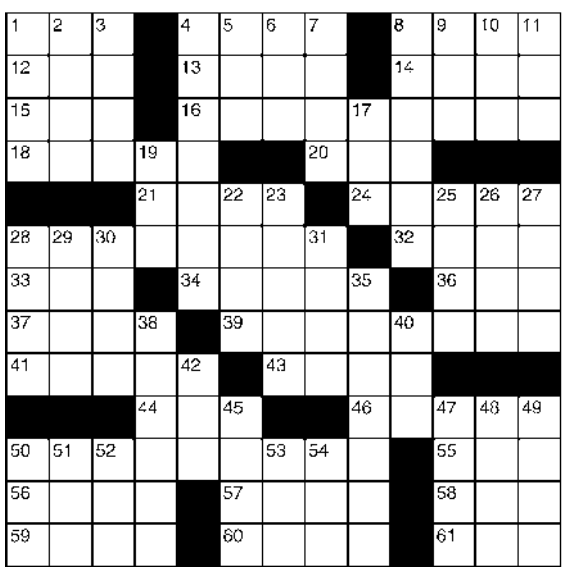
ACROSS
1 Try the tea
4 Carvey or Delany
8 Cut down to size
12 Bill's partner
13 Smell
14 Trevi toss, once
15 Render speechless
16 Homeowners' expenses
18 Disney deer
20 Total
21 Organic compound
24 Business bigwig
28 And
32 "Clue" weapon
33 Mimic
34 Poisonous plant
36 Greek H
37 Line of fashion?
39 "Beloved" author Toni
41 Archimedes' device
43 In the vicinity
44 Brillo competitor
46 Forbidden
50 Message transmission method
55 Samovar
56 Diamond Head site
57 Hebrew month
58 Moment
59 Support
60 Nurse's trayload
61 Weeding tool

DOWN
1 Wound cover
2 Waterloo is there
3 Verse
4 Popular pizza chain
5 Commotion
6 Neither mate
7 Decoupage and macrame
8 Din
9 Predetermine
10 Raw rock
11 — de deux
17 Big Red or Orbit
19 Spelldown
22 Egg
23 Edsel, e.g.
25 Leaves
26 Engaged in
27 Slender
28 Factor in Einstein's equation
29 Oil cartel
30 Caboose's position
31 Exceptional
35 Lunar dents
38 Disarrange
40 George's brother
42 Calamity
45 Con game
47 Clinton predecessor
48 Sandwich treat
49 Formerly
50 Broom closet item
51 Scull need
52 Plato's P
53 Praiseful rendition
54 Mid-June honoree

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	O	P	S	■	G	I	L	_	■	C	C	W
F	A	R	O	■	A	R	I	A	■	R	H	O
T	R	Y	I	N	G	O	J	T	■	Y	I	N
■	■	■	R	C	A	N	■	E	L	■	O	T
C	A	F	E	S	■	■	B	R	A	N	■	■
C	G	L	E	■	S	T	R	A	G	G	_	E
M	A	Y	■	C	O	R	A	_	■	J	A	Y
P	R	I	M	A	L	E	S	■	P	A	V	E
■	■	N	E	R	O	■	■	T	O	G	A	S
B	U	G	L	E	■	P	R	E	P	■	■	■
E	N	A	■	T	R	Y	I	N	G	P	A	N
E	T	C	■	C	U	R	S	■	U	R	G	E
W	O	E	■	R	E	E	K	■	N	E	A	T

Yesterday's answer 1-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tiffani Thiessen, 34; Mariska Hargitay, 44; Princess Caroline of Monaco, 51; Richard Dean Anderson, 58

Happy Birthday: Things will start to fall into place and you will begin to realize what you want to pursue. Everything is starting to make sense this year. Love can now move forward and the hold-ups of the past can be put to rest. You can turn past mistakes into future gains. Your numbers are 8, 15, 21, 26, 29, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Go after whatever you can in order to spice up your life. Love is on the rise and travel, entertainment and trying new things should all be put into play. An emotional issue can be dealt with before it becomes unbearable or impossible. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Think before you do or say something you will regret in the future. It won't be worth it to let your emotions lead the way. In time everything will become clear but don't try to manipulate the situation. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): This is your day to accomplish no matter whether it is at home, work or school, so pick up the slack and get ahead. In the end you will feel better, do better and position yourself for praise. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stick to what you know not what others want you to do. You have to be true to yourself if you are going to do a good job. You may like things to remain the same but sometimes it's good to spice things up. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Passion, love and romance should be your intent, not trying to trick or fool someone into something. Consider what's best for everyone. You are in control but you don't want to hurt anyone. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Secrets are being kept but that doesn't mean you should go on a rampage because you think you are being left out. Do your own thing until the information is revealed to you. To push someone will only set you back. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Try something new or get involved in something unusual. A chance meeting with someone will take you out of your normal routine but be careful that you aren't being lead astray. Creative pursuits will open your mind. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't take anything or anyone for granted. A financial gain can be made but only if you take care of your own money transactions. Nothing is likely to get done if you don't do it yourself. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You will come up with some interesting concepts that are surely going to draw attention. You will be positioned well for making money or putting your plans into play. Your masterful way of doing things will lead to your success. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't give in because you don't want to hurt someone's feelings. Do what's best. Focus on taking charge, moving forward fast and putting whatever needs to be done behind you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Emotional matters will rise to the surface, so deal with them head-on. This can be a particularly passionate time for you if you address pressing issues and build a solid and secure life-long partnership. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep your plans to yourself. Someone will try to talk you out of doing what you feel is necessary. Don't let your emotions come between you and a good decision, especially regarding work, education or health matters. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, dynamic and engaging and can manipulate any situation you face. You are ahead of the times and highly intuitive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8			
		2	6	1		9	4
1		6				7		3
9		8				3		1
2	1						4	7
	6						8	
		5				2		
		1	7		8	5		
			9	1	5			

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/23

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	8	4	7	3	9	6	2
9	7	4	2	6	5	8	1	3
3	2	6	9	8	1	4	5	7
4	8	3	1	5	2	6	7	9
7	9	1	6	3	8	2	4	5
6	5	2	7	9	4	3	8	1
2	6	5	3	4	7	1	9	8
1	4	7	8	2	9	5	3	6
8	3	9	5	1	6	7	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/23

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS — Solution: 9 letters

E	S	M	R	E	S	K	N	I	R	D	O	O	F	L
A	V	U	T	E	L	E	S	O	R	C	U	S	T	I
D	B	I	B	O	D	O	R	L	E	S	S	U	H	G
H	H	S	T	S	M	W	T	S	W	E	E	T	G	H
W	E	S	O	A	T	L	O	I	I	F	R	U	I	T
E	N	A	L	R	N	I	E	P	L	N	U	K	E	B
M	E	T	L	E	B	R	T	T	E	Y	T	C	W	I
A	R	O	O	T	T	U	E	U	N	N	X	A	P	T
T	G	P	S	S	H	C	L	T	T	I	I	P	K	T
R	Y	L	S	A	E	T	U	K	L	E	M	F	I	E
A	P	P	E	T	I	T	E	D	Ⓐ	A	C	L	E	R
P	S	N	I	R	T	X	E	Ⓓ	O	T	L	A	M	R
S	S	O	R	B	I	T	Ⓞ	L	A	R	E	V	I	F
A	J	U	I	C	E	Ⓢ	U	G	A	R	P	O	T	E
E	E	F	F	O	C	S	A	C	C	H	A	R	I	N

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 1/23

Absorb, Alternative, Appetite, Aspartame, Bitter, Bulk, Coffee, Drinks, Energy, Five, Flavor, Food, Fruit, Health, Intake, Isomalt, Juices, Light, Loss, Maltodextrins, Mintel, Mixture, Odorless, Pack, Potassium, Powder, Product, Refine, Saccharin, Soda, Sorbitol, Substitute, Sucrose, Sugar, Sweet, Taste, Teas, Weight, White, Xylitol

Yesterday's Answer: Students

Treasury 5 is here! Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each (5 4.20 lbs each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1 per copy for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-900-226-5955, ext. 6662. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*	
• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

Combo (Print and Online)*	
• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)	
• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Apartment Room for Rent
2 bed room $230.00, Koblerville.
Contact: 288-0728.

2 br apartment w/ laundry facility. Beach Rd., Chalan Laulau. Behind former Hakubotan bldg. Close to beach walking path. Call 483-1974.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (W 80565)
Salary:$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Hugh L. Hargrove dba Landmark Limited @235-3329.

1 PHOTOGRAPHER/MED. SPEC. (W 80566)
Salary:$400.00/bi-weekly. Benefits: Medical benefits & transportation to & from job side. Contact: Edwin K. Propst dba Pacific Digital Media. @235-4176.

1 HOUSEWORKER (W 80567)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; $100.00/per month food; medical & transportation provided by employer. Contact: Jeremy Mendiola dba Private @234-0707.

1 BEAUTICIAN (W 80568)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; employee provided food; & workmen's compensation. Contact: Shao Hongxia Jones dba D'Ocean Beauty Salon @287-8206.

1 TOURIST-INFORMATION ASSISTANT (W 80569)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical insurance & workers compensation. Duties: Assists tourists in planning itineraries & advises them on traffic regulations. Composes letters in response to in quiries. Maintains personel, license-sales & other records. Contacts motel, hotel & resort operators by mail or telephone to obtain advertising literature. Preferred basic Japanese speaking. Computer (MAC) literate. Contact: Hiro Corporation @233-4997.

1 NETWORK SYSTEM (MIS OFFICER) ANALYST (W 80570)
Salary:$9.00/hour. Benefits: $225.00/housing; self provided food; life; medical & workmen compensation. Contact: IBSS (CNMI) Corporation @234-5155/8002

1 CIVIL ENGINEER (T 3901)
Salary:$1,200.00-$2,200.00/monthly. Benefits: Employer provided housing; employee provided food; medical & workmens compensation provided. Contact: Pacific Drilling Ltd. @235-8531.

1 GEN. MANAGER (W 80571)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Nao Marine Inc. @323-7251.

6 WAITRESS/WAITER (W 80572)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Asia West Investment Group, Inc. dba Memory Lane Karaoke Bar @234-8224/5/6.

1 COOK (W 80573)
Salary:$600.00-$750.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & worksmen compensation provided. Contact: Asia West Investment Group, Inc. @234-8224/5/6.

1 HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER (W 80574)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Asia West Investment Group, Inc. dba Paradise Hotel @234-8224/5/6.

1 ENGR. TECHNICIAN (W 80575)
Salary:$900.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Asia West Investment Group, Inc. dba Paradise Hotel @234-8224/5/6.

1 CARPENTER (W 80576)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Asia West Investment Group, Inc. dba Paradise Hotel @234-8224/5/6.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (W 80577)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Li Yong Hong Corporation dba Hong Apartment Rental @483-9080.

WHATZIT Solution:
Permanent wave

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (W 80578)
Salary:$3.55-$4.10/hour. Benefits: Workman's compensation & medical provided. Contact: Pacific Airport Services @235-4000.

1 CONTROLLER (W 80579)
Salary:$2,600.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical; dental & workman's compensation. Contact: Bridge Capital, LLC @322-2222.

1 HOUSEWORKER (W 80580)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing; $100.00/food; workmen's compensation & medical provided. Contact: Manuel C. & Zenaida S. Camacho @256-1076.

1 GEN. MANAGER (W 80581)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; employee to provide her own transportation to & from the job site; medical & workers compensation company provided. Contact: TKL Ent., Inc. dba New Rise Wholesale @235-5717.

1 PURCHASING AGENT (W 80582)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; employer to provide medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: TKL Enterprises Inc. dba New Rise Wholesale @235-5717.

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (W 80583)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; employer to provide medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: TKL Enterprises Inc. dba New Rise Wholesale @235-5717.

1 HOUSEWORKER (W 80584)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deduction housing; $100.00/deduction food & medical provided. Contact: Carmen M Santos/Gregory P Calvo @288-5448.

1 LIVE-IN HOUSEWORKER (W 80585)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deduction housing & $100.00/deduction food. Contact: Jose C. Ayuyu @235-8761.

1 DECK ENGINEER (W 80586)
Salary:$900.00-$1,500.00/monthly. Benefits: Free company housing; $8.00/food per allowance; medical insurance coverage & workers compensation. Contact: Saipan Crewboats, Inc. @322-7346.

1 SEWER (W 80587)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee to provide own food; employer to provide medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Ma. Rosario O. Yoshimoto dba Rose Boutique & Dress Shop @234-7422.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (W 80588)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical benefits. Contact: Clide Aguon & Mizanur Khan @285-8585.

NEW Rattan Furniture
FOR SALE
Expensive material
Call 235-4791,
433-9616, 285-7446

TUTORIAL & TRAINING
PEACHTREE ACCT.
QUICKBOOK ACCT
233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

SAIPAN WORLD CORP. dba:
ISLAND TELECOMM. & ELECTRICAL SERVICES
P.O. Box 502273 • Tel. (670) 235-6511/483-0055
E-mail:joleeco@pticom.com
SERVICES OFFERED:
- In house Wiring and Re-wiring for Telephone, Electrical and DSL Lines.
- Trouble Shooting and Repair
- Installation, Relocation and Programming of Telephone System (KSU) such as Meridian/Norstar and Intertel Phone System
- Category 5e Inside Wiring Cable merchandise.

If you are looking for the services above, please call us and we're ready to serve you.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: 2008-CDA-01-ITB

OPENING DATE: Friday, February 1, 2008 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE PACIFIC GARDENIA HOTEL"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/OSCAR C. CAMACHO
Acting, CEO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

© 2008 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Tour Sellers Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

2 ELECTRICIAN (W 80589)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: D&S Corporation Inc. @234-6397.

---

1 TECHNICIAN, A/C AND REF. (W 80590)
Salary:$5.50-$6.00/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workers compensation insurance & medical expense. Contact: Chong's Corp. @234-6560.

1 ELECTRICIAN (W 80591)
Salary:$5.50-$6.00/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workers compensation insurance & medical expense. Contact: Chong's Corp. @234-6560.

1 ENGINEER, MECHANICAL (SALES) (W 80592)
Salary:$2,000.00-$2,200.00/monthly. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workers compensation insurance & medical expense. Contact: Chong's Corp. @234-6560.

---

3 WAITRESS (W 80593)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: EC Entertainment & Promo, Inc. @235-6072/5.

---

1 FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER (W 80594)
Salary:$17.163/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 ACCOUNTANT (W 80595)
Salary:$11.538/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 DEMI CHEF (W 80596)
Salary:$3.85/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 CARPENTER (W 80597)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 BEAUTICIAN (W 80598)
Salary:$5.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

3 LAUNDRY WORKER (W 80599)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 STOCK CLERK (W 80600)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 CHEF DE PARTIE (W 80601)
Salary:$6.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 HEADWAITER (W 80602)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

3 FRONT DESK CLERK (W 80603)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 PAINTER (W 80604)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 POWER PLANT OPERATOR (W 80605)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 GARENER (W 80606)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

2 COOK (W 80607)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 MAINTENANCE BLDG. REPAIRER (W 80608)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 GUEST RELATION REPRESENTATIVE (W 80609)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 CHIEF STEWARD (W 80610)
Salary:$7.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 GUEST RELATION OFFICER (W 80611)
Salary:$3,000.00/monthly. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 MANICURIST (W 80612)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

6 WAITER/WAITRESS (W 80613)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 MASON (W 80614)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 SALES PROMOTOR (RUSSIAN MARKET) (W 80615)
Salary:$1,500.00/monthly. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 GRAPHIC DESIGNER (W 80616)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 CASHIER (W 80617)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 TRANSLATOR (KOREAN) (W 80618)
Salary:$8.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

8 COOK (W 80619)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 MASSEUR/MASSEUSE (PANCHKARMATECH) (W 80620)
Salary:$5.25/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

8 WAITER/WAITRESS (W 80621)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

2 MASSEUSE (W 80622)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 NIGHT AUDITOR (W 80623)
Salary:$10.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 STOREKEEPER (W 80624)
Salary:$5.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

---

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (W 80625)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing at a charge of$30.00/monthly; workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Nippon General Trading Corp. @233-8223.

1 BARTENDER (W 80626)
Salary:$3.55-$3.90/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing at a charge of$30.00/monthly; workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Nippon General Trading Corp. @233-8223.

2 COOK (W 80627)
Salary:$3.55-$3.95/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing at a charge of$30.00/monthly; workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Nippon General Trading Corp. @233-8223.

---

1 TOUR COORDINATOR (W 80628)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: HIS Saipan Inc. @234-7053.

---

1 HOUSEWORKER (W 80629)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical. Contact: Michael Hart @285-4278.

---

1 CARPET LAYER (W 80630)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 MASON (W 80631)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 CARPENTER (W 80632)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 ELECTRICIAN (W 80633)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

---

1 SALES CONSULTANT (W 80634)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: PRFC Corporation @235-3578.

---

2 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS (W 80635)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: KP Company Ltd. @322-0007.

---

1 MANAGER (W 80636)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Emmy F. Larinay dba Saipan Machine Shop @235-5902.

---

1 SCUBA (DIVING) INSTRUCTOR (W 80637)
Salary:$650.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: 5J Corporation @288-1111.

---

1 (CHIEF) COOK (W 80638)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: PSG Professional Corp. @235-5902.

---

2 CONSTRUCTION WORKER (W 80639)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Double J Corporation dba PRO Construction @285-7153.

1 (ASSISTANT) MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (W 80640)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Double J Corporation dba PRO Construction @285-7153.

2 CARPENTER (W 80641)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Double J Corporation dba PRO Construction @285-7153.

2 MASON (W 80642)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Double J Corporation dba PRO Construction @285-7153.

1 MAINTENANCE (W 80643)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: JAP Professional Corporation @235-5902.

1 ACCOUNTANT (W 80644)
Salary:$6.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: JAP Professional Corporation @235-5902.

FOR RENT

Well maintained office space and apartment units in a secure and quiet environment. Conveniently located on Middle Road Gualo Rai, just 3 minutes drive to shopping, entertainment and business establishments in Garapan.

We have the following office space and apartments for rent:
- 1 Office Space, Ground Floor. 1440 sq. ft., 1 bathroom
- 1 2-Bedroom Apartment, 2nd floor, 960 sq. ft., 1 bathroom
- 1 2-Bedroom Apartment, 2nd floor, 744 sq. ft., 1 bathroom, Ocean View
- 1 2-Bedroom Apartment, 3rd floor, 970 sq. ft., 1 bathroom

24 Hour Water Supply • Back-up Generator • On-Call Maintenance Staff • Laundry Room • Swimming Pool

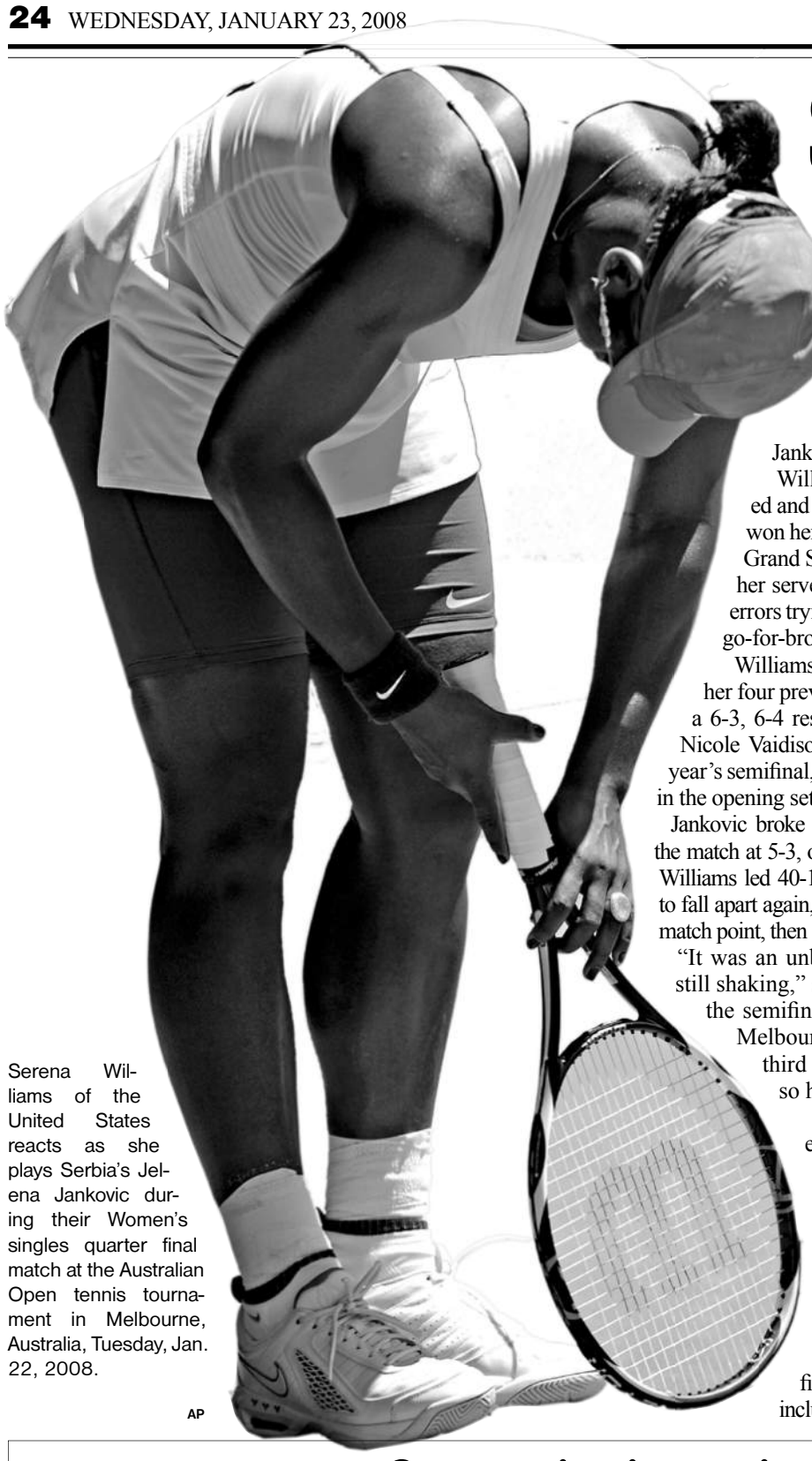
For Inquiry, call us at 235-7688

Subscribe to CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

235-NEWS

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Electric fuel rates remain at highest ever. PAGE 2
2007 economic census begins in CNMI. PAGE 5
'Many still oppose federalization'
Sleep disruptions may up diabetes risk
Car slams into pole, 3 hurt by fireworks
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
LOCAL: 'Even if Tenorio files election contest, he would still be out.' PAGE 2
BUSINESS: Hyatt Regency Saipan opens i Sagua Spa. PAGE 13
Rebates out for Christmas
Governor signs zoning bill into law

Serena out of Aussie Open



Serena Williams of the United States reacts as she plays Serbia's Jelena Jankovic during their Women's singles quarter final match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008.

AP

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Defending champion Serena Williams slumped out of the Australian Open in a 6-3, 6-4 quarterfinal loss to third-ranked Jelena Jankovic on Tuesday.

Williams, who was unseeded and ranked No. 81 when she won here last year for her eighth Grand Slam title, struggled with her serve and made 36 unforced errors trying to combat Jankovic's go-for-broke game.

Williams had not dropped a set in her four previous matches, including a 6-3, 6-4 result against 12th-ranked Nicole Vaidisova in a rematch of last year's semifinal, but dropped serve twice in the opening set.

Jankovic broke Williams and served for the match at 5-3, only to be broken herself. Williams led 40-15 in the next game only to fall apart again, double-faulting to set up match point, then sending a forehand wide.

"It was an unbelievable match, I am still shaking," said Jankovic, reaching the semifinals for the first time at Melbourne Park and only the third time at a major. "I am so happy.

"I came here with no expectations—it's amazing to beat the defending champion and in general a champion like Serena, it doesn't happen every day."

Jankovic had to fend off three match points in the third set of her first-round match, which included 15 service breaks, before edging Tamira Paszek, 2-6, 6-2, 12-10.

She followed that with straight-sets wins over Edina Gallovits and Casey Dellacqua and was taken to three by No. 30 Virginie Razzano.

Jankovic lost to Williams in the fourth round here last year between runs to the semifinals at the 2006 U.S. Open and 2007 French Open—her best efforts in Grand Slam tournaments to date.

"Now, getting revenge it feels so good," said the 22-year-old Jankovic, who is now 3-2 in her career against Serena Williams. "I've beaten the Williams sisters a couple times. But here it is very special."

After taking the first two games, Williams became increasingly sluggish. Normally bouncing on the balls of her feet and renowned for never giving up on a ball, she was often caught flatfooted, left to watch as Jankovic's shots landed for winners or to whack unforced errors awkwardly into the net.

Her best efforts came when she didn't have to run and had time to set up for a full swing. For most of the match, Williams' usually powerful serve averaged 10 mph slower than in the last round, and she was broken seven times.

Her shoulders frequently drooped as the points piled up against her. On other occasions, Williams looked to the sky as if hoping for divine intervention. Even her shouts of "Come on!" sounded weak.

The fans shared her disbelief, with one shouting: "Wake up Serena!" By the time sister Venus showed up, Williams had lost the first set—squandering five break points in two games and netting an easy forehand volley on set point.

After Jankovic broke her for a 3-1 lead in the second on a stinging backhand passing shot, Williams—who earlier took a swing with her racket as if to smash it—followed through this time. She angrily spiked it once, then slammed it down a second time, breaking it and earning a warning from the umpire for racket abuse.

That seemed to kick-start her for a while, as Williams broke in the next game to get back on serve.

Both women received medical treatment at the changeover, Jankovic for a thigh ailment and Williams for a blister on her right big toe.

After her loss, Serena went to join Venus Williams to prepare for a doubles quarterfinal against Chinese pair Yan Zi and Zheng Jie.

Top-ranked Justine Henin was to play No. 5 Maria Sharapova, the losing finalist last year, on Tuesday night.

James Blake advanced to a quarterfinal match against Roger Federer on Monday, and found himself in a predicament. He was asked if he thought Federer was vulnerable after being taken to 10-8 in the fifth set of a third-round match and a few close calls in his fourth-round win over Tomas Berdych.

"It's just a reminder that everyone's human. You can have a bad day," Blake said, taking the cautious route, after his 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over 19-year-old Croatian Marin Cilic.

Blake has only taken one set off Federer in seven previous matches and reached the quarterfinals for the first time in seven trips to Melbourne Park.

The 28-year-old American made it this far at a Grand Slam tournament twice before—both at the U.S. Open. He lost to Andre Agassi in 2005 and Federer in four sets in '06.

Federer is aiming for a third consecutive Australian title—a fourth in five years—and a 13th major to get within one of Pete Sampras' record.

The Swiss star had to come back from a set down in his 4-hour, 27-minute third-round match against Janko Tipsarevic that prolonged the longest day of tennis at any Grand Slam.

"Janko taking him to 10-8 in the fifth shows that it doesn't matter who you are, you can play your best and take him to the limit," Blake said. "A couple breaks here and there, that obviously could have been Janko's match."

LeBron gets first win in Miami and sends Heat to 14th straight loss

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James scored 28 points and added five assists, lifting the Cleveland Cavaliers past the Heat 97-90 for his first win in nine career trips to Miami and enough to send the 2006 NBA champions to their 14th straight loss on Monday.

Dwyane Wade scored 42 points for the Heat, who are in their second-worst slide in franchise history. The Heat started 0-17 in their expansion 1988-89 season.

Wade hit a 3-pointer with 30.8 seconds left to get the Heat within 92-88 then James sealed it with two free throws 4.8 seconds later.

Rockets 96, SuperSonics 89

At Houston, Yao Ming had 30 points and 17 rebounds, Tracy McGrady added 17 points and five assists and Houston gave Seattle a team-record 11th consecutive loss.

Wally Szczerbiak and Jeff Green had 15 points apiece for Seattle, riding the longest single-season losing streak in team history. The Sonics lost 12 consecutive games across the end of the 1968-69 season and the start of 1969-70.

The Sonics, who've lost 10 straight road games, trailed only 53-52 at halftime. But they missed 14 of their first 20 shots in the third quarter and the Rockets stretched the lead to 12.

Hornets 106, Bucks 92

At New Orleans, Tyson Chandler had 20 points and 15 rebounds, and New Orleans won its fifth straight game.

Four of Chandler's baskets came on alley-oop dunks, three set up by Chris Paul, who finished with 16 points and 10 assists.

Michael Redd led Milwaukee with 19 points, scoring only two in the second half. He missed his last nine shots of the game. Andrew Bogut had 13 points and 15 rebounds for his sixth straight double-double.

Wizards 102, Mavericks 84

At Washington, Caron Butler and Antawn Jamison gave Washington its first season sweep of Dallas since 1996-97.

Butler had 25 points and nine rebounds, Jamison added 23 points and eight rebounds, and Washington overcame Josh Howard's 32 points to hand the Mavericks their biggest loss of the season.

Dirk Nowitzki finished with 21 points, 11 rebounds and six assists.

Trail Blazers 111, Hawks 109, OT

At Atlanta, Travis Outlaw sank a long jumper with one second left in overtime to lift Portland over Atlanta.

Guarded by Josh Smith, Outlaw held the ball outside the 3-point line until under 5 seconds remained. Then Outlaw took a couple of dribbles inside the circle before pulling up and making the jumper. He led Portland with 23 points

Joe Johnson, who scored 37 points, missed a last-second shot for Atlanta, which lost its sixth straight to Portland at home.

Celtics 109, Knicks 93

At New York, Kevin Garnett had 20 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists, and Boston routed New York.

Celtics leading scorer Paul Pierce was ejected with New York's Quentin Richardson in the third quarter when both picked up two technical fouls for jawing at each other.

Zach Randolph had 24 points and 15 rebounds for the Knicks, who reached the halfway point of its miserable season at 13-28.

Spurs 95, Bobcats 86

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Tim Duncan had 19 points and 10 rebounds and San Antonio ended its offensive doldrums.

With five players in double figures, the Spurs snapped a two-game losing streak and ended a three-game stretch where they failed to reach 90 points. Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker added 16 points each.

Emeka Okafor had 21 points and 10 rebounds and Gerald Wallace added 15 points for Charlotte, 0-4 all-time against the Spurs at home.

Pacers 110, 76ers 103

At Philadelphia, Kareem Rush scored a season-high 25 points and Mike Dunleavy added 24 to help Indiana beat Philadelphia.

Andre Iguodala scored 23 points and Andre Miller 21 for the Sixers, who flopped at the free throw line, making just 21 of 34 of free throws.

Jazz 109, Clippers 93

At Los Angeles, Deron Williams had 18 points and 13 assists, and six of his teammates also scored in double figures as Utah beat Los Angeles.

Corey Maggette scored 23 points for Los Angeles and Chris Kaman added 17 points and 10 rebounds. The Clippers haven't won consecutive games since starting the season 4-0. They are 8-25 since then.

Timberwolves 109, Warriors 108

At Oakland, California, Ryan Gomes scored a career-high 35 points to go with 11 rebounds to help Minnesota snap a 16-game road losing streak. The Timberwolves won just their second road game of the season and first since Nov. 26.

Golden State began a stretch of 13 home games in 16 contests with a disappointing loss to the NBA's worst team. Monta Ellis led the way with 28 points.

Grizzlies 104, Bulls 90

At Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Miller and Rudy Gay each had 24 points and 10 rebounds and Pau Gasol had 12 points and 10 rebounds to lead Memphis.

Ben Gordon led Chicago with 25 points and Andres Nocioni had 16 but the Bulls shot just 37 percent from the field while Memphis made 52 percent.

Magic 102, Pistons 100

At Orlando, Florida, Rashard Lewis hit a 12-foot jumper as time expired to lift Orlando over Detroit for the first time in 10 matches.

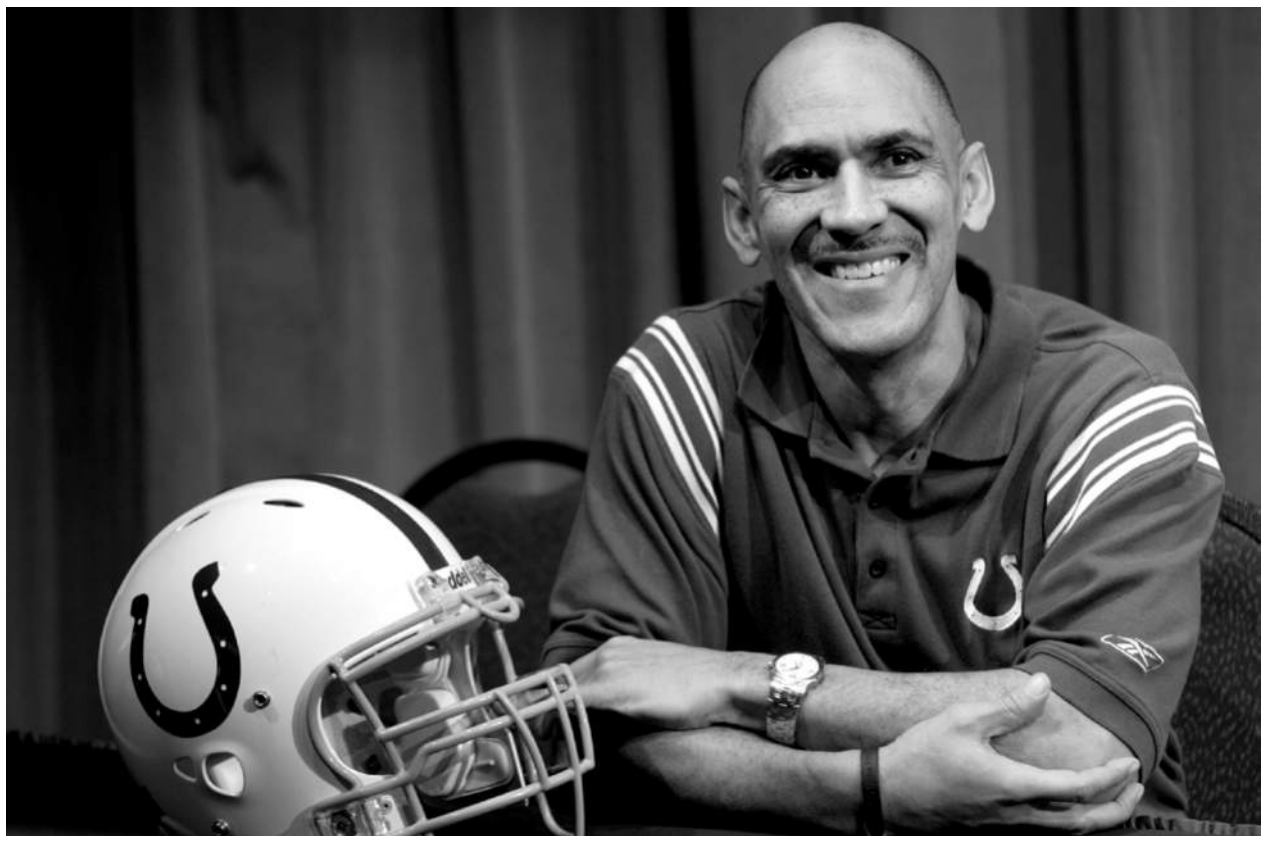
Hedo Turkoglu had 26 points and eight assists and Dwight Howard added 23 points and eight rebounds.

Six Pistons scored in double figures, led by Richard Hamilton with 21 and Tayshaun Prince with 20.

Lakers 116, Nuggets 99

At Los Angeles, Derek Fisher scored a season-high 28 points, Jordan Farmar added 19, and the short-handed Los Angeles Lakers broke open a tight game late in the third quarter to beat the Denver Nuggets for their 18th win in 22 games.

Kobe Bryant, attempting only seven shots and making five, had 17 points and a season-high 11 assists and Lamar Odom added 15 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for the Lakers (27-12), who outscored the Nuggets 31-8 to finish the third period and start the fourth for a 108-87 lead.



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Tony Dungy is sticking with the Colts.

Dungy announced Monday he would coach Indianapolis through at least the 2008 season and possibly longer before turning over the duties to hand-picked successor Jim Caldwell.

Dungy, the first black coach to win a Super Bowl, spent a week meeting with his family, close friends and trusted colleagues while deciding whether to return for a seventh season with the Colts.

It's the third straight year Dungy seriously considered retiring.

"I wouldn't shortchange my family," he said. "I wouldn't come back if my wife or my children were not for it."

The debate focused on Dungy's desire to balance family and football, especially after his family moved back to Tampa earlier this month. His 16-year-old son Eric now attends high school there, and team owner Jim Irsay said he was willing to let Dungy spend more time in Florida.

But Dungy said he didn't plan to alter his approach to his family, his job or his team.

"I don't anticipate it changing at all," Dungy said. "I'm writing a letter, like I always do, to the team and am telling them nothing's changing."

Dungy is the first coach in Colts history to make the playoffs and win at least 10 games six consecutive years. He has won five straight AFC South titles, taking the Colts to two AFC championship games, and winning last year's Super Bowl, the first with two black coaches, as Indy beat Chicago.

Dungy's 80 wins in Indianapolis, including the playoffs, are a franchise record, and he ranks fifth in victories among those who coached in 2007 with 136 career wins, which includes playoffs. He enters next season tied for 19th in career wins with Hank Stram.

When Dungy does retire, the Colts already have his replacement in Caldwell.

Caldwell has been the quarterbacks coach the last six seasons and has had the title of assistant head coach the past three years. Now he'll get another new title, associate head coach, and the Colts have signed him to a contract that will keep him with the organization for the foreseeable future.

It's not clear how long he'll be the head coach-in-waiting, though.

"I certainly appreciate the opportunity of one day leading this team in the future," Caldwell said. "And I hope it is in the distant future."

Caldwell will become more involved, however, in the decision-making process.

Early reports suggested Dungy would coach only one more season, but Irsay, team president Bill Polian and Dungy denied that. Dungy signed a three-year contract extension in 2005 that runs through the 2009 season.

"This isn't a victory lap tour or something like that," Polian said. "He remains 100 percent committed to coaching and I think that will be the case as long as Tony decides to stay here. I hope that's long after my tenure here."

Under Dungy, the Colts became the first team in league history to win at least 12 games in five consecutive years. Their season ended with a 28-24 loss to San Diego in last week's AFC divisional playoff.

Before joining Indy, Dungy spent six seasons at Tampa Bay, becoming that team's career-victory leader (54) while turning around one of the league's worst franchises. Dungy led the Bucs to four playoff appearances and the 1999 NFC championship game.

Caldwell has spent the last seven seasons as Dungy's assistant, one year in Tampa Bay and the last six with the Colts. Caldwell's only previous head coaching experience at the pro or college level came during an eight-season tenure at Wake Forest, where he went 26-63 and led the Demon Deacons to a bowl game in 1999.

Caldwell also replaced Dungy for one game late in the 2005 season so Dungy could attend his son's funeral. The Colts lost that game 28-13 at Seattle playing primarily backups.

Over the past year, Caldwell has become a regular on the interview circuit, meeting with the Atlanta Falcons, Baltimore Ravens this month and the Arizona Cardinals last year about their head coaching vacancies.

To Dungy, life was always about more than football. He became a fan favorite in Indy and Tampa, where he was arguably more popular after he left than when he was there.

However, it isn't just the fans who like him.

"We love coach Dungy," NFL defensive player of the year Bob Sanders said last week. "We'll let him make the decision, then we'll know and then we'll go from there. But we love him around here."

David Rivers to have surgery

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers needed surgery to get his right knee through the AFC championship game, and now needs a more extensive operation to repair a torn ligament in the same knee. His rehab could last six months.

LaDainian Tomlinson has a sprained ligament in his left knee but won't need surgery.

However, the superstar running back took a hit to his image during Sunday's loss to the perfect New England Patriots, simply because of the way the truth sometimes takes a beating in the way NFL teams release news about injuries.

First, Rivers.

While confirming that he needs surgery on his torn right anterior cruciate ligament, the quarterback revealed for the first time that he had arthroscopic surgery to clean out the joint a week earlier in order to play in the AFC championship game.

Rivers made it through Sunday's 21-12 loss to the Patriots in freezing Foxborough, Mass., despite the damage to his knee, which he sustained in an upset win over the Indianapolis Colts a week earlier.

Rivers, lauded by his teammates for his gutsy play, said he'd like to have surgery as soon as possible on the torn ACL. "I'll be ready by training camp," he said.

Pressed for more details on his earlier arthroscopic surgery, Rivers nodded toward the training room and said: "I mean, the guys, obviously, I know they don't talk, but the guys in there would be able to give you the details on that."

Actually, that's part of the problem. Trainer James Collins is not allowed to talk to the media and the team often limits the information it releases.

"It wasn't real extensive, but I mean, really that was the only way I would have had a chance to play by doing that on Monday," Rivers said. "I thought maybe I could come back in the Colts game but it was catching. That's what we did on Monday to give me the chance to play on Sunday."

Rivers missed most of practice last week and was listed as doubtful on Friday's injury report.

Tomlinson missed Wednesday's practice but worked out the rest of the week and wasn't mentioned on Friday's injury report. He hurt his left knee against the Colts, with the team saying then it was hyperextended, Tomlinson said after Sunday's game that he has a sprained medial collateral ligament.

Tomlinson said he re-injured the knee when he was hit on the first play from scrimmage against the Patriots. He carried only twice, both in the opening drive. He caught a short screen pass the following series before retiring to the sideline for good, with more than 9:45 left in the first quarter.

Early in the second quarter, it was announced in the press box that Tomlinson had a "sore knee" and that he "can return."

Tomlinson is one of the humblest players in all of pro sports. He was the NFL's MVP in 2006 and has won two straight league rushing titles. Yet his toughness was questioned by fans and TV commentators alike, including former star cornerback Deion Sanders of the NFL Network.

Sanders said he was under the impression that Tomlinson was close to 100 percent. "I have expectations, and when you don't meet my expectations, you open yourself for us to try to guess," Sanders said. "Now what's the problem? You're a big-time player. And big-time players must play big-time games."

Sanders also said he thought Tomlinson's injury would need to warrant a surgery "for him to get a pass on this one."

Tomlinson didn't appreciate hearing that.

"He's never been a running back and had a sprained MCL," Tomlinson said. "You tell me what running back has played with a sprained MCL and been effective. You might go out there and try to limp around and play, but it's not going to happen. I don't know how information gets passed on, but until you talk to the source of the problem, what's going on with me, I think it's ridiculous when people make comments like that."

Tomlinson said he understands that teams don't like to let opponents know what's going on, and that it might lead to players' toughness being questioned.

"I think the funny thing to me is, all the things I've played with through my career and haven't missed a game, now all of a sudden I'm not tough?" he said. "You think I just wanted to sit on the sideline and not go, in the championship game? You think, me? Come on, man, that's ridiculous."

Tomlinson said he wasn't aware of the information that had been announced to the media.

"Well, I don't know how they got that. I didn't tell them that," he said.

On Sunday, Chargers spokesman Bill Johnston declined to clarify where the optimistic update on Tomlinson's injury came from.

"There was some miscommunication on whatever happens in the heat of the game," coach Norv Turner said Monday. "But shortly after the first quarter, I was not of the opinion that he would return to the game.

"I'm disappointed that anyone would think negative about L.T., because I know if he could have played in the game, he would have."

Tomlinson said he knew he was done when he didn't have his usual explosiveness after catching the screen pass.

"If I would have played, I clearly wouldn't have been effective," he said. "My thinking also was, a 100-percent Michael Turner and Darren Sproles was way better than a 50-percent me. It just didn't make sense for me to try to play."

Tomlinson said he'll probably sit out the Pro Bowl.

Brady photographed in walking cast

NEW YORK (AP)—Patriots quarterback Tom Brady was photographed Monday with what appears to be walking cast on his right foot.

The *Boston Herald* and *Boston Globe* had the photos—credited to infphoto.com—on their Web sites. A video of Brady walking with a slight limp from an SUV to girlfriend Gisele Bundchen's apartment in New York is available on TMZ.com.

The Patriots beat San Diego 21-12 on Sunday and play the New York Giants in the Super Bowl in two weeks.

"Ah, you know, there's always bumps and bruises. I'll be ready for the Super Bowl," Brady said Monday during his weekly radio appearance on WEEI—before the photo and video emerged—when asked if his leg was injured. "I'm not worried about that. I'm not missing this one. I'd have to be on a stretcher to miss this one. There will be treatment this week. In games like this, you get a little nicked up. It's nothing serious."

Patriots spokesman Stacey James wrote in an e-mail to the AP late Monday night that the team had no comment on the photos.

Brady threw three interceptions against the Chargers in one of the worst performances of what has been a record-breaking season for him. Brady has started in 124 consecutive games, the third longest streak by a quarterback in NFL history.

Tigers foil Rubak-D9ers finals party

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ
The Tigers' Ben Duenas throws a pitch to Rubak batter Dave Kapileo in their Masters Baseball League playoff game last Saturday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball field.

TheAtty.Bob O'ConnorTigers crashed the expected finals party of Atty. Johnson Toribiong Team Rubak and the Saipan Stevedore D9ers in the Masters Baseball League.

The Tigers used a five-run first inning as enough cushion to escape with a 9-7 win over Team Rubak in their playoff match last Saturday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The win propelled the Tigers to a title showdown against the top-ranked and pennant winners D9ers in today's finals scheduled at 6:30pm. There will be no more consolation match due to the unavailability of the baseball field.

The Korean professional baseball team LG Twins are currently holding their winter training here on Saipan and have been using the FMP baseball field as their practice venue.

It was a morale-boosting win for the Tigers after ending the elimination round with a 1-2 record against Rubak. They cruised to a 21-11 dumping of Rubak last Jan. 4 for their lone win, which was a makeup match of their Nov. 11 rained out game.

The D9ers grabbed the first finals berth after a 23-0 crushing of the Viva Poker Korean Dreams last Jan. 18.

The D9ers has the psychological edge in their finals matchup against the Tigers after completing a three-game sweep of their opponents in the elimination round.

In the three games they played in the eliminations, the D9ers pitchers and defense held the Tigers to a total of 21 runs or seven runs per outing. The D9ers also outscored the Tigers with 35 runs or an average of 11.6 per game.

Last Saturday, it was the trio of Ben Duenas, Jerry Ayuyu, and Reno Celis who teamed up to help the Tigers stun Rubak in extra innings.

Duenas pitched eight innings in no relief and gave up only an unearned run on 12 hits with six strikeouts and two walks to earn the win. Ayuyu went perfect at the plate while Celis drove in three runs.

Ayuyu, who replaced Ivan Igitol at third base in the top of the sixth, went 2-for-2 with a double and scored the insurance run on Celis' sacrifice fly in the top of the eighth.

Dennis Ngeskebei had a leadoff walk in the eighth and scored on a balk by Rubak pitcher Poland Masaharu. Ngeskebei went 1-for-3 in the game. Celis went 1-for-2 with three RBIs, while Jeff Cabrera went 3-for-5 with two runs.

Masaharu went 2-for-4 with two runs, while Poland Yamada, 2-for-4, had two triples, scored two runs, and an RBI. Payton Sakuma also went 2-for-4 scoring one run, had a double and a triple, and drove in two runs.

On Friday, Ben Mesa went for the cycle in the D9ers 23-0 thrashing of the Dreams. Mesa went 4-for-5 with four runs, a double, triple, home run, and seven RBIs.

Mesa, with one out and a runner on second, singled in the first inning to let lead off batter Randall Aguon reach home. He blasted a three-run home run in the second then followed it up with a double and a triple in a 13-run third inning barrage.

Tony Camacho went 4-for-5 with four runs, two doubles, and a first inning two-run roundtripper to go with his four RBIs.

Greg Camacho earned the win pitching in five innings, shortened by the 10-run mercy rule. Camacho allowed the Dreams only to three hits with no runs, no walks, and five strikeouts.

Saipan Major League coordinator Tony Rogolifoi is also inviting both Rubak and the Dreams to join them in today's award ceremony after the D9ers-Tigers championship game.

Wakai Nekko No Kai golf benefit today

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament will be held today, Jan. 23, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

The event, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority along with the Saipan Mayor's Office, and the Northern Marianas College, will have a show time of 6am with shotgun start scheduled an hour later at 7am. Entry fee for the double Peoria-format competition is $75.

Aside from handsome prizes through first and 10th places ($400 for first, $300 for second, $200 for third, $100 for fourth, and consolation prizes from 5th to 10th finishers), a 2008 Toyota Yaris will be the hole-in-one prize in hole No. 12 and a special prize will be given to the closest to the pin in hole No. 7.

An awards banquet will be held immediately after the tournament at the COP poolside were "fabulous and awesome door prize prizes" await participants.

MVA, Saipan Mayor's Office, and NMC—collectively called "Friends of Wakai Nekko"—are holding the fundraising activity to help the Wakai Nekko No Kai continue its voyages to the CNMI.

The ocean university has been visiting Saipan for 39 years and has brought a total of 16,000 students to the CNMI.

AUSSIE

From Page 28

saying he was happy that his son was chosen to play in Australia. Heo's mother added joining the junior tour was a great opportunity for his son to improve his tennis skills.

Heo said he is used to traveling alone when competing in off-island tennis tournaments. "I always travel without my parents. I have never traveled with my parents [when I am playing] tennis. My dad wasn't worried because I was used to traveling alone but I guess it was [normal] for my mom to worry about me.

Heo played his best tennis in the CountryLink Victorian Junior Classic where he previously scored stunning upsets over seeded opponents before finally meeting his match in the boys' 16-and-under singles losing to Rory de Bouer in the semifinals.

He earned some consolation after becoming the only unseeded and non-Australian player that went up against homegrown and top-ranked opponents in the semifinals.

Heo then partnered with William O'Connell of Fiji in the doubles division but lost both of their semis matches in the CountryLink Classic and Margaret Court Cup.

He also entered the semifinal round of the consolation draw of two age divisions in the Ducats Junior Classic and reached the quarterfinals of the singles division in the Margaret Court Cup.

After the tournament, Heo and the rest of the ITF Junior touring team watched some games in the Australian Open at Rod Laver Arena.

Heo competed in his first Australian junior championship tournament after he was invited to become a member of the ITF Pacific Oceania Junior touring team late last year.

Heo received an invitation to join the ITF Pacific-Oceania Junior touring team in Australia last October. He left Saipan last Dec. 27 joining a group of Under-18 players that traveled around Australia from Dec. 30 to Jan. 18.

SONICS

From Page 28

while Ed Diaz contributed 18 markers. Elmer Esdrelon and Jawn Joyner netted 14 markers apeice.

Earlier, Manuel Ajoste scored 25 points to lead the Sonics' balanced scoring attack in a 98-90 win.

Jon Lim, Peter Mendiola, Lerio Pagarao, and Mike Eclevia provided scoring support ending up with 21, 14, 13, and 11 markers, respectively.

Josh Sablan tallied a game-high 41 points, while Dave Sablan contributed 16 markers. Henry Sablan and John Sablan drained 14 each.

First Game

Southern Sonics 96 – M. Ajoste 25, Lim 21, Mendiola 14, Pagarao 13, Eclevia 11, Bahillo 4, Apelo 3, O. Ajoste 2, Nedlic 2, Del Rosario 1.

D-1 Ulloa's 89 – J. Sablan 41, D. Sablan 16, H. Sablan 14, Jo. Sablan 14, D. Palacios 2, Tudela 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-13, 40-33, 70-60, 96-89

Second Game

Rock Steady 98 – Wallace 25, Pelisamen 23, Estolas 17, Fitial 15, Awes 11, Alegre 2, Manibusan 2, Ja. Villacrusis 2, Jo. Villacrusis 1.

Saipan Stevedore Suns 90 – Rasa 22, Diaz 19, Esdrelon 14, Joyner 14, Mendoza 12, Wesley 8, Baculud 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-12, 40-24, 65-71, 98-90.

BANMI

From Page 28

players that they have fundamental guidelines in officiating matches. "It is very important to teach first the contents and rules of the game. That is one job of a coach especially to the young players."

Mesa said he learned that even the bench of a team can be given a technical foul just for shouting at a referee for making a call that they think does not favor them. "I learned that while officiating matches in the Masters Basketball Tournament in Australia."

"All of this shouting against the referees make the gym a prison yard and we are no longer game officials but correction officers."

Mesa cited an example of the situation they face in the match between the Southern Sonics and the D-1 Ulloa's where a record five technical were slapped against the players.

Mesa said Dado Vistal and Noel Delos Santos officiated the match where the game was so intense and getting physical that the match slowly got out of hand. The Sonics beat Ulloa's, 96-89.

"I saw Noel (Delos Santos) was intentionally tripped by John Sablan," said Mesa, who added that they might propose that suspensions be given to several players for resorting to dirty tricks.

"[The] Ulloa's are one of the best young teams on Saipan but [why do] they have to play using fighting words. I just hope we could address this issue so we can prevent a much worse situation in the future."

Mesa ended that referees do make mistakes that is why they always talk and access the way they officiate after every quarter and every game. "We want to emphasize and teach the fundamental rules so we could raise the quality and level of play here on Saipan."

FAJARDO

From Page 28

meanwhile, were good enough for third place. He fired a 48 in the first nine holes and 44 in the last nine.

In the closest to the pin competition, former presiding judge Edward Manibusan won hole No. 3, Cruz was without peer in hole No. 7, Jung Eun Taeck was unparalleled in hole No. 12, while Mat Chargualaf placed a 3-footer and a birdie in hole No. 14.

Anyone interested in joining SGA or need more information about the club, should contact Joe Sablan, Larry Guerrero, and Ben Aldan at 287-4563, 287-1052, or 234-3176, respectively.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	33	6	.846	-
Toronto	22	19	.537	12
New Jersey	18	22	.450	15 1/2
Philadelphia	16	26	.381	18 1/2
New York	13	28	.317	21

Southeast Division

Orlando	26	17	.605	-
Washington	22	17	.564	2
Atlanta	17	20	.459	6
Charlotte	16	25	.390	9
Miami	8	32	.200	16 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	29	13	.690	-
Cleveland	22	18	.550	6
Indiana	19	23	.452	10
Chicago	16	24	.400	12
Milwaukee	16	25	.390	12 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	28	12	.700	-
Dallas	27	13	.675	1
San Antonio	26	13	.667	1 1/2
Houston	22	19	.537	6 1/2
Memphis	12	29	.293	16 1/2

Northwest Division

Portland	25	16	.610	-
Denver	24	16	.600	1/2
Utah	24	18	.571	1 1/2
Seattle	9	32	.220	16
Minnesota	6	34	.150	18 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	29	12	.707	-
L.A. Lakers	27	12	.692	1
Golden State	25	18	.581	5
Sacramento	17	22	.436	11
L.A. Clippers	12	25	.324	15

Yesterday's Games

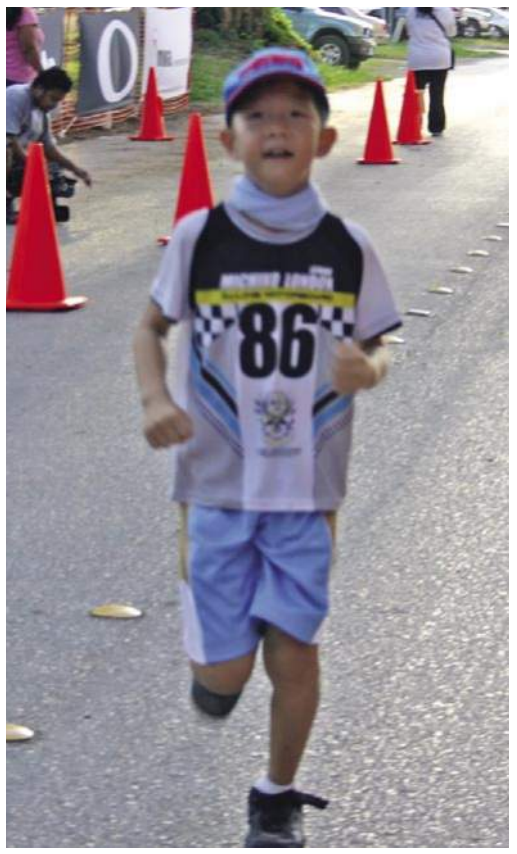
Boston 109, New York 93
Washington 102, Dallas 84
San Antonio 95, Charlotte 86
Portland 111, Atlanta 109, OT
Indiana 110, Philadelphia 103
Houston 96, Seattle 89
Utah 109, L.A. Clippers 93
New Orleans 106, Milwaukee 92
Minnesota 109, Golden State 108
Memphis 104, Chicago 90
Orlando 102, Detroit 100
Cleveland 97, Miami 90
L.A. Lakers 116, Denver 99

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2008 Winter Festival of Runs

Photos and Text by
JON PEREZ, REPORTER

Yoshihiro Narui of Japan grimaces after crossing the finish line in Saturday's Winter Festival of Runs at Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park.



Eight-year-old Geesyu Hahn placed third in the 14-and-under category to complete a Saipan sweep of the age division. Angelo Jones topped the division with Kenyon Schultz placing second.

DFS Galleria Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce outruns Tom Bondoc as they near the finish line for the 10K run.

Saipan's Dawn Hammermeister jumps and raises her arms after completing the Half Marathon event.

An unidentified runner from Japan adjusts his watch as he nears the finish line.

Mieko Carey walks off after crossing the finish line in the women's Half Marathon.

Pedro Villaga of Saipan crosses the finish line in the men's division of the Half Marathon last Saturday in the Winter Festival of Runs at Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park.

Northern Marianas Athletics long-distance runner Matthew Mancao walks as he nears the finish line.

Seventy-six-year-old Eiko Tsukui of Japan talks with some of her colleagues after completing the women's 10-kilometer run in Saturday's Festival of Runs at Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park.

Miwa Sakuraya of Japan grabs some water from volunteer Lupe Sabino.

Tigers foil Rubak-D9ers finals party

The Atty. Bob O'Connor Tigers crashed the expected finals party of Atty. Johnson Toribiong Team Rubak and the Saipan Stevedore D9ers in the Masters Baseball League.

26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Serena Williams out of Australian Open

Defending champion Serena Williams slumped out of the Australian Open in a 6-3, 6-4 quarterfinal loss to third-ranked Jelena Jankovic on Tuesday.

24

Aussie trip boosts Heo's confidence

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ji Hoon Heo's three-week long Australian tennis tour helped boost his confidence as he prepares to take on the challenge of joining several International Tennis Federation-organized events.

The Korean-born netter, who is currently the top male netter in the CNMI, was invited to join the ITF Pacific Oceania Junior touring team playing in the 2008 Ducats G.V. Junior Tennis Tournament, 2008 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup, and the 2008 CountryLink Victorian Junior Classic.

The Marianas High School student returned to Saipan last Sunday and in an email said he had a lot of fun meeting different people and hanging out with the other players that joined the junior tour.

"[The trip] was a lot of fun because I got to meet a lot more people. Some were really nice but some [players] had bad sportsmanship."

The lone male in a brood of four—Heo has three other sisters—added being invited in Australia gave him the chance to experience the high-level of play in several big-name junior tennis events Down Under.

"The level of play in the trip was really high and exhausting. There were times that I had to play up to six matches a day. They were really tough [matches and] it boosted my confidence."

The 15-year-old Heo said his trip also motivated him to focus more on practicing and training even harder. And to prove that, just a few hours after returning home, Heo hit the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts Sunday afternoon to practice. "I will be practicing a lot more. I am not taking a break."

Heo's family is proud of his achievements with his father

See AUSSIE on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Ji Hoon Heo, second from left, joins his parents and sister for a group photo after arriving from Australia last Sunday at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Sonics, Rock Steady Final Four match set

JON PEREZ
Saipan Stevedore Suns' Tim Wesley, left, pump fakes Mark Wallace of Rock Steady in their Monday night playoff game in the BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Southern Sonics and Rock Steady arranged a playoff showdown after beating separate opponents as the road to the finals in the BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League continued Monday night.

The Sonics ran away with a 96-89 win over the D-1 Ulloa's, while Rock Steady needed a fourth-quarter scoring burst to outlast the Saipan Stevedore Suns, 98-90, in two intense and thrilling playoff matches at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

They will play on Monday, Jan. 28, with the winner advancing to the Feb. 1 championship match, while the loser will have to play one more game on Jan. 30.

The Ulloa's and Suns will play today with the D-1 crew of player-coach David Sablan taking on the CNMI Junior Nationals at 7pm. The Suns, meanwhile, clash with the Bombers in the second game.

Rock Steady was very much in control of the match and even enjoyed a 40-24 halftime lead before the Suns made a furious rally in the third period, outscoring their opponents, 47-25, to momentarily grab the lead.

Kelvin Fitial helped Rock Steady regain the lead in the fourth quarter, scoring 11 of his 15 points to help preserve the win.

Mark Wallace led the scoring for Rock Steady with 25 points, while Freddy Pelisamen supported him with 23 markers. Andres "Jhun" Estolas Jr. tallied 17 points, while Sivas Awes chipped in a quiet but effective 11.

Steve Rasa scored 22 points to lead the Suns' losing cause,

See SONICS on Page 26

BANMI referees: Respect our judgment

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Veteran referee Arnold Mesa is requesting all players and their fans to respect their judgment calls when they officiate games in various leagues on Saipan.

Mesa, who is the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands referees' director, said he came across many incidents where players or coaches from different teams question their calls.

"Referees are also human and sometimes we make mistakes. If other people see our calls as bad that is their own perspective. But not all our calls are bad, most of the times we make good calls," Mesa said in a telephone interview yesterday.

He said he came across so many incidents where referees are being blamed for a team's loss. "And I need to call into attention the coaches and athletes. We don't want games to get out of hand."

Mesa said the referees want to reach out to all the

See BANMI on Page 26

Fajardo tops SGA's opening season

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Mariano Fajardo started 2008 on the right foot as the July 2007 champion won the Saipan Golf Association's January Ace of the Month Tournament last Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

The VFW Post 3457 CNMI commander topped a 21-man field after shooting a gross of 91, which after his 25 handicap was deducted gave him the day's best net score of 66.

Fajardo tamed the greens and fairways of the Koblerville golf course, shooting a 48 in the front nine and a 43 at the back nine to finish with the hard-to-beat net score of 66.

Even before he was declared the winner, Fajardo already was sure of his victory and this was betrayed by the big smile he sported when he came into the scoring station.

Fajardo was so overjoyed by his victory that he even volunteered and placed all scores on the official SGA chart.

His good luck continued after he won the longest drive in hole No. 11 and pocketed a few more dollars from the Wanna-Be bet.

Touting the highest SGA handicap of 32, John Takai's

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mariano Fajardo, seen here in a file photo, topped a 21-man field of Saipan Golf Association's January Ace of the Month Tournament held last Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

102 gross placed him second to Fajardo with his net 70. He shot a 52 and 50 in the front and back nines. John "Nunni" Cruz's 21 handicap and net 71,

See FAJARDO on Page 26